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Israel

The head of the Civil Administration met with Gaza Palestinian leaders, who urged the government to lift the 10-day-old blockade on Gaza because of the economic hardships on workers and factory owners, Jerusalem TV reported. The Civil Administration official said the sealing of Gaza was done to "protect Gaza Strip workers in the wake of the Bat Yam incidents," adding that the closure would be "gradually" lifted. Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni urged foreign consuls to press Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza, the television noted. In another development, Defense Minister Moshe Arens ordered al-Najah University in Nabulus to be shut down for one week, Jerusalem radio reported. The university, which was reopened by the Civil Administration eight months ago, was being closed "due to violence and riots that took place in it," according to the radio.

Iraq

"Press sources" have alleged that Iraqi officers are training terrorist groups "belonging to several countries" including Sudan, according to the clandestine Voice of the Iraqi People. The report says Iraqi fighter planes have been sent to Sudan as part of a previous agreement between Saddam Husayn and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir.

Jordan, Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat was removed from the intensive care unit at al-Husayn Medical Center and is convalescing, according to Dr. 'Adil al-Shuraydah, head of the Jordanian medical team which performed 'Arafat's surgery, Amman TV reported. Dr. al-Shuraydah said 'Arafat "got up as usual, walked around in his room, and had his breakfast." The doctor also said 'Arafat "is in perfect shape, active, and well," adding that he hoped 'Arafat will be able to leave the hospital "in a few days." In his first interview after the surgery, 'Arafat described his operation as "very successful," AFP reported.

Lebanon

The Iranian ambassador to Germany said "the stage is now set" for the release of the two German hostages being held in Lebanon, AFP reported. "All preparations have been made to set free the two German hostages," according to the envoy, who asserted that "no deal" was made to exchange the Germans for the Hammadi brothers.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers' Meeting Begins in Riyadh

LD0306083592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0846 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Jun (SPA)—Meetings of the 43d session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] foreign ministers council began this morning at the GCC's general secretariat headquarters in Riyadh.

'Abd-Rabbuh Calls For U.S. Pressure on Israel

PM2005113892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 May 92 p 6

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and Information Department chief, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Qulaybi] What is the PLO's response to the U.S. position supporting resolution 194 about the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation, and what steps should now be taken to implement that resolution?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Resolution 194 above all upholds the right to repatriation. Regarding compensation, that would be for those wishing to return [as published]. So, the principle on which the resolution is based is that every Palestinian has a right to return to his homeland. The importance of the resolution lies in the fact that it links UN recognition of the state of Israel to the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation. Therefore neither the United States nor even Israel can categorically reject that resolution. The UN General Assembly reaffirmed the resolution annually, with Israel and Washington abstaining. [passage omitted]

The U.S. support for the repatriation resolution is a positive move, but we expect the United States to manifest that support by making its implementation the basis of the work of the Refugees Committee. We do not want from Washington just assurances in principle, while in practice it pursues a policy that runs contrary to that, which, in fact, is what worries us and the other Arab delegations. Through Arab-Palestinian coordination and coordination with the EC in this positive international atmosphere, we hope that we can make the necessary progress in the Refugees Committee.

It is clear to us that participation in the United Nations and its specialized bodies is an important and necessary factor in that committee's success, which is why (UN Secretary General) Dr. Butrus Ghali's decision not to participate can be seen in two ways. We can understand the UN pressure for acceptance as a full partner in the process, but we cannot understand nonparticipation in its negative aspect. The United Nations should address a clear message to the Refugees Committee members, urging them to accept the UN role as essential to the committee's work. As I said, Dr. Butrus Ghali's passive nonparticipation makes us extremely suspicious about the UN role and intentions regarding sponsoring and playing a positive part in the committee.

There are in fact numerous UN resolutions covering repatriation of the refugees expelled from their homeland in and after 1948 and the refugees expelled in 1967 and ever since then, affecting thousands of strugglers and sons of the Palestinian people.

All these resolutions need to be implemented. The Refugees Committee could begin by accepting the principle, which is the right of repatriation, and taking practical and procedural measures to implement that principle, including canceling the deportation decisions, repatriation of the refugees since 1967, and preparation of a timetable for the return of the refugees since 1948. [passage omitted]

[al-Qulaybi] How do you explain the Palestinian agreement to participate in a limited number, but not all, of the committees in the multilateral framework?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We participate in four committees in the multilateral framework. We have done so on the basis of the principle that the Palestinian people at home and abroad are one people with one cause. [passage omitted]

We believe that the move to participate in the multilateral negotiations has achieved part of our national objectives, inasmuch as it confirmed that the Palestinian people have only one representative, the PLO; that the Palestinian people at home and abroad are one and the same people; and that all the Palestinian people's casues come und-т one national cause of repatriation, independence, and self-determination. [passage omitted]

The absence of the Syrian brothers is not a negative position. Our presence serves the Syrian absence, and the Syrian absence serves our presence. We agree with Syria that there can be no progress in the multilateral negotiations before fundamental and tangible progress is achieved in the bilateral negotiations.

[al-Qulaybi] How do you view the Arab performance in the multilateral negotiations committees, particularly in light of the Arab delegations' refusal to form subcommittees in the Economic Development Committee before tangible progress is made in the bilateral negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We and the Arab brothers agree on all the main factors and basic principles pertaining to the peace process in the region. This certainly warrants even more direct cooperation and coordination in the interest of common causes. [passage omitted]

[al-Qulaybi] How do you view the prospects of the political process that has been in progress for six months without any great achievements?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There is not enought time before the Israeli elections for a new round of negotiations. In light of the election results, we will consider how to proceed with the negotiation process.

It is now clear that the peace process is an international responsibility and that the United States is now responsible for any faltering or failure of that process. Such a faltering would affect the future of the region, as well as international relations and the multilateral negotiations.

We do not believe that the position taken by the United States in not giving Israel loan guarantees is enough in itself. There should be effective pressure to stop the settlements and to declare them illegal if we are to make tangible progress in the negotiations. Meanwhile, the Central Council has conclusively confirmed the PLO's commitment to peace and to continued participation in the political process. The results of the Central Council were a victory for Palestinian realism, national unity, and legitimacy. This has dashed the hopes of many people who were counting on Palestinian divisions, the weakening of Palestinian legitimacy, and continued internal confusion.

We admit that major difficulties and complications lie ahead, but the most important thing is to have a crystal clear vision, and that is what the Central Council achieved.

[al-Qulaybi] How will the Palestinian leadership approach the next phase of bilateral negotiations against a background of sustained Israeli policy of settlement and intransigence?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The main point is to stop the settlements, without which there can be no progress in any field. In fact, without and an end to settlements, the political progress could collapse, which is why we explained to the U.S. Administration, in several messages and at several meetings between the Palestinian delegation and U.S. Administration officials in Washington, that it has to be either peace or settlements. This is the message we that we conveyed to the Israeli public in the Central Council's statement. If they want peace, we extend our hand to them; but there can be no peace with settlements, no peace with occupation.

The United States has to prove its credibility regarding implementing the so-called land-for-peace principle. In the remaining six months we will be working for the implementation of that principle. By the end of the six months, there must be a full agreement on the transition period in accordance with the Madrid documents and the U.S.-Russian invitation, which means agreement also on measures for electing the legislative authority in the occupied territory that would assume power and replace the military government bodies and pave the way to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territory and the establishment of Palestinian national rule there.

If the United States does not honor its commitment, made in Madrid, that these arrangements will be completed within a year, major doubts will arise about the seriousness of the political process, and that will force us to reconsider the entire process and would also threaten the multilateral negotiations, throw them into a vicious circle, and doom them to failure.

'Abd-al-Majid, Lebanon Envoy Discuss 'Escalation'

NC0206194692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with today Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

The Lebanese delegate said after the meeting that his talks with 'Abd-al-Majid focused directly on the situation in southern Lebanon, the Israeli hostile practices, and the continuous military escalation. He added that the secretary general briefed him about the great efforts he made during his visit to France regarding the situation in southern Lebanon and its [not further specified] desire to see the end of the Israeli actions in southern Lebanon.

Arab Economic Unity Council 'Stands By' Libya

NC0206150092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] The Arab Economic Unity Council concluded its 55th session at the Arab League headquarters today, issuing a resolution about threats against Libya, saying it stands by Libya in line with its previous session's resolution.

The council asked member states to take the necessary measures to help Libya face the effects of sanctions and tasked the council's secretary general, Dr. Hasan Ibrahim, to follow up this resolution.

The council also stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation in Arab trade.

The 56th session will be held in Cairo on 6 and 7 December.

International Petroleum Firm To Operate in Hala'ib

NC2805140692 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 28 May 92

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 28 (AFP) - International Petroleum Corporation (IPC) expects to operate in a disputed area between Egypt and Sudan soon after reports the two neighbours are close to agreement, an IPC chairman said on Thursday. [sentence as published]

"We have heard the two countries are about to reach an agreement on Hala'ib," Ian Lundin told AFP by telephone from his IPC office in Dubai.

"Sudanese officials have informed us we will be able to resume operations in that area. We expect that to be very soon."

Sudan awarded Hala'ib and another major concession in the Southeast to IPC under a 60-million-dollar agreement signed in December last year.

Hala'ib is a Red Sea coastal strip and covers an area of 10,300 square kilometres (4,000 square miles). The other concession, Delta Tokar, covers 28,100 square kilometres (11,000 square miles).

Canadian-owned IPC is already engaged in a seismic survey in Delta Tokar but had to stop activity in Hala'ib when the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute erupted soon after the concession was signed.

The dispute further strained relations between the two countries, already sour over Khartoum's support of Iraq during the Gulf war and alleged training of Muslim extremists seeking to destablise Egypt and other Arab nations.

A senior Sudanese official visited Cairo after the dispute erupted and the two sides agreed to form a committee to resolve the problem.

According to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, the committee, grouping senior government officials from the two countries, was considering setting up a joint venture in Hala'ib.

"The committee is trying to find a solution to the problem, including the possibility of joint investment in Hala'ib," it quoted Muhammed Shawkat, an adviser at the Egyptian Oil Ministry, as saying Thursday.

He said Cairo had invited bids from foreign companies to explore in Hala'ib but was considering a Sudanese request to stop such bids.

Scores of world firms are hunting for oil in Egypt, which produces around 800,000 barrels per day and has reserves of about six billion barrels. Sudan has also invited companies to explore but the Gulf war crippled such activity.

Lundin said any agreement between Egypt and Sudan would not affect the Hala'ib concession awarded to IPC, which holds 24 oil concessions in 18 Arab countries and has recently expanded its office in Dubai.

"If they reach agreement on a joint development area in Hala'ib, we will be able to operate there. Our concession will only be affected if Egypt takes over the area, which has a large hydrocarbon potential," he said.

He said IPC, which does not operate in Egypt, was ready to sign a concession agreement with Cairo.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Brain Surgery 'Very Successful'

NC0306103992 Paris AFP in English 1028 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Amman, June 3 (AFP) - PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat Wednesday said he would leave the hospital in three to four days following what he described as "very successful" brain surgery. "All the doctors who treated me agreed that this operation was very successful," 'Arafat told AFP in his first post-surgery interview.

The 62-year-old chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization said he would be ready to leave the al-Husayn Medical Center "in three to four days" but admitted that his doctors would like him to extend his stay by two days.

"I explained to them that I had a lot to do. There is the Amman meeting to evaluate the Arab-Israeli peace talks as well as the Middle East multilateral discussions," he said. Foreign ministers from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the PLO are to meet Saturday and Sunday in Amman to discuss the fate of the U.S.- and Russian-sponsored Middle East peace initiative.

'Arafat underwent surgery here Monday to remove a blood clot on the brain brought on by a plane crash in the Libyan desert on the night of April 7-8. "There were no complications. No side effects," Dr. Yusuf al-Qusus told a press conference following 'Arafat's operation. "He is...in good shape."

He said a Jordanian medical team diagnosed the condition late Sunday and told 'Arafat he needed surgery, which the Palestinian leader—who had been complaining of headaches—accepted.

Bassam Abu-Sharif—'Systematic Terrorism' in Gaza

JN3105102292 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the president of the state of Palestine, stated that over 750,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are subjected to siege [word indistinct], starvation, and systematic terrorism away from the eyes of the media. At a news conference in Sanaa today that was attended by a number of local, Arab, and international media representatives, Abu-Sharif said that Zionist Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday decided to impose a siege on Gaza until further notice. He stated that the PLO considers this decision an explicit Israeli violation of human rights; a declaration of its rejection of international resolutions; an open violation of the Geneva Convention; and a rejection of the recent UN Security Council resolution that condemns the Israeli occupation authorities' practices against Palestinian citizens.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif stated that the PLO believes it is high time that the UN Security Council, which called

in its recent resolution for keeping the situation in the occupied territories under continued supervision and asked the secretary general to submit reports in this regard [sentence incomplete as heard]. He added that that the PLO warns the public and the United Nations that Moshe Arens' decision is directly linked with the distribution of automatic weapons among Zionist settlers, who are armed in accordance with a decision that permits any settler to open fire on any Arab. He stated that this is a clear, premeditated crime. He urged the world public opinion and the United Nations to adopt appropriate decisions in this regard.

Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif said that the United States and the Russian Federation—being the cosponsors of the peace conference—are fully responsible for what is occurring in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and are responsible for protecting Palestinian citizens. He explained that the lack of such protection will inevitably lead to obstructing the peace process and that these repressive measures will only lead to natural reactions by Palestinian citizens. He said the world should not expect the Palestinians to stand idle toward what they are being subjected to. He added that resisting the occupation is a legitimate right guaranteed by all international regulations.

Brother Abu-Sharif urged the United States and Western states to translate the report submitted by the International Red Cross into practical steps [word indistinct] to punish the party that violates Palestinian human rights. Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif denounced the continued [words indistinct]. He stated that the PLO denounced the killing of the girl Helena as a violation of the Palestinian people's militant traditions. At the same time, he stated that resisting the occupation through all possible means is a legitimate right. He revealed that there are Israeli special units who wear Palestinian clothes and kill intifadah activists. He urged the UN Security Council to ("set up) an international inquiry committee to investigate these special units' practices in the occupied territories.

Responding to a question about the rumored Yemeni Jewish emigration to Israel, Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif said that the Zionist movement fabricates such rumors and uses all forms of terrorism and spreads panic among Jews to convince them of an Arab danger. He added that Yemeni Jews enjoy Yemeni citizenship rights, and more, which, he said, was heard by a European delegation from the Yemeni Jews themselves.

Concerning Arab-Palestinian relations, brother Bassam Abu-Sharif hoped for an Arab move toward improving inter-Arab relations.

The news conference, organized by the regional center of the Yemeni Journalists Organization in Sanaa, was attended by brothers Yahya Rabah, Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa, and Mahbub [word indistinct], head of the regional center of the Yemeni Journalists Organization.

Negotiations To Begin After Israeli Elections

LD0206194292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said that real peace negotiations will begin after this month's Israeli legislative elections. She expressed hope for tangible changes in the occupied territories before November. She added that the coming three months will be decisive for the future of the peace process. She said that a democratic election process must begin from now until November in the occupied territories and that Palestinian parties must be allowed to function openly.

Steering Committee Chairman on Elections

LD0206195292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Brother Faysal al-Husayni—chairman of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks—said that in the event of Israel's refusal to hold the proposed legislative elections in the occupied territories at the start of next November, the Palestinians have the option of embarking on these elections unilaterally. Al-Husayni believed that embarking on the legislative elections unilaterally could be set in motion by an invitation from international institutions and defining the electoral rolls and ballot venues. He added that Israel has two options: either accept the proposal to hold elections—and this is a gain for us—or reject and prevent people from voting, which will also constitute a gain for us.

Germany Warned Against Granting Credits to Israel

LD0106124592 Hamburg DPA in German 1034 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, the leading Palestinian delegate at the Middle East peace talks, warned Germany against granting credits amounting to billions [currency not specified] to Israel. The Palestinians are aware of the historically determined special relationship between the Germans and the Jews, 'Abd al-Shafi told journalists in Bonn. But the special relations should not influence current policies or justify new large-scale financial aid for Israel.

'Abd al-Shafi evaluated the U.S. refusal to grant Israel credit guarantees of over $10 billion as an indication of a more balanced U.S. policy about the Middle East. The United States justified this policy, because the Jews were continuing to settle in the occupied territories, violating international law. "We are confident that Germany is also very aware of this situation," the Palestinian politician said. "We don't expect Germany to grant Israel any further support."

At a meeting with his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, in Lisbon at the end of May, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel stated that Bonn is "open" to Israel's problems but

also expects understanding regarding the burdens of German unification. The basis for handling Israel's requests for billions is an exchange of letters between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Levy, in which this question is said to have been postponed to a later date.

According to 'Abd al-Shafi—who is scheduled to meet with Helmut Schaefer, German Foreign Ministry state minister—the Middle East negotiations have currently reached a dead end, for which Israel is to blame and is endangering the peace process with its "unreasonable position" and continuing human rights violations and thus also provoking the United States and the European democracies. He called on the German Government to back pressure on Israel within the EC in the interest of peace.

Germany Supports 'Self-Determination'

LD0206151592 Hamburg DPA in German 1006 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The German Government assured 'Abd al-Shafi, chief Palestinian delegate at the Middle East peace conference, that it will continue to support the Palestinian right to self-determination and Israel's right to exist. The Foreign Ministry announced in Bonn today that during talks with 'Abd al-Shafi yesterday, State Minister Helmut Schaefer stated that both elements are prerequisites for comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Schaefer and 'Abd al-Shafi also expressed their concern over "Israel's settlement policies that contravene international law" in the occupied Arab territories, the most recent murders of several Palestinians, and Israelis and Israel's "acts of revenge."

'Abd al-Shafi, who continued his talks today at a meeting with Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, Social Democratic Party deputy chairperson, repeatedly criticized Israel over its "unreasonable position and continued human rights violations" and warned against Germany granting credits to Israel. Israel is to blame for the fact that the Middle East peace conference has reached a dead end. During a meeting with Arab ambassadors on Monday evening in Bonn, he warned of a new "radicalization, violence, and bloodshed" if the chance of finding a peaceful solution is not taken.

OPEC Affairs

Observers 'Uncertain' About Change in Saudi Policy

LD0106135792 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] London, June 1, IRNA—Saudi Arabia's endorsement of the latest Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' agreement to moderate output for the third quarter of this year leaves observers uncertain as to whether the Kingdom is changing its oil policy.

Previously unwilling to trim production to its OPEC allocation of 7.9 million barrels per day, the Saudi policy of a retaining minimum output of 8 million barrels per day caused prices to slip earlier this year to around five dollars a barrel less than the target price of 21 dollars set by OPEC, according to the latest issue of "MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST" [MEED].

The Kingdom's acceptance of OPEC's Vienna decision, last month, to allow joint OPEC output for the third quarter to stay below 24 million barrels per day is prompted, reports "MEED", by the threat of a tax on oil to be imposed by the European Community.

"PETROLEUM ARGOS", a weekly update on the oil industry, questions the effect of such a prospect on Saudi oil policy as the carbon tax directive is unlikely to be adopted by many EC members seeking the prior backing of the U.S. or Japan. The Bush Administration is unlikely, during an election year, to support a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.

The Saudi agreement to an envisaged price rise of two dollars per barrel for the third quarter does not in itself reflect a policy change as the Kingdom still assumes the right to depress prices and increase output should any of OPEC's 12 other members breach the organisation's allocations.

In addition, notes "PETROLEUM ARGOS", Saudi wellhead production, as opposed to market sales, will continue to rise throughout the third quarter, leaving room for the Kingdom to request a higher output ceiling for the fourth quarter when oil ministers convene for OPEC's September 16th meeting in Geneva.

According to "MEED" average demand for OPEC oil is expected to rise above 25 million barrels daily during the final quarter of this year.

Algeria

Brahimi on Diplomatic Shakeup, Other Issues

LD0206180692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by unidentified correspondent—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Lakhdar Brahimi, first we would like to thank you for accepting the invitation of the first [radio] channel. I will not discuss with you the issues pertaining to Algerian diplomacy before we ask, even briefly if you wish or prefer, about what is taking place in Algerian diplomacy regarding personnel. Recently, Algerians have heard rumors that the Higher State Council has authorized you to reassess, if that is the right expression, some diplomatic duties, particularly concerning persons or ambassadors, to be more precise. How far has the process gone, Mr Lakhdar Brahimi?

[Brahimi] First of all, this is a routine process which is carried out every year, because employees at embassies, whether ambassadors or aides, are changed or withdrawn after a number of years. The process is renewed every year. In fact, the process this year is not greatly different from other years. However, we constantly try to improve our performance, and perhaps there are additional pressures on us this year due to economic reasons. Consequently, we are requested to carry out the same work with less human and material resources abroad, if possible.

[Correspondent] Foreign Minister, maybe this question is linked with rumors in the street or what has been deduced from some statements or even press articles. It has been said that this process aims primarily at the ambassadors who were officials in the previous era.

[Brahimi] Not at all. We have a tradition, and it is a good tradition. In addition to the employees in the Foreign Ministry, we bring in fresh blood from outside the Ministry to work at various levels; at embassies, and, sometimes, even at home. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let us return to what you said about economic problems. Mr Minister, would it possible to say that some embassies will be closed down due to our current financial capability?

[Brahimi] Yes, with great regret, there is an idea to close down some embassies. We are not going to say which embassies until we contact the states concerned, which will be done in the near future. However, there is also a possibility; we are thinking about the possibility of opening other embassies. For example, the Soviet Union was one country, and it has now turned into many countries. Some of those countries have relations with us and we want to have relations with the others. [passage omitted] You also have Asia; Asia is a very important region and there are possibilities for cooperation and exchanges, and for benefiting from the significant progress achieved in Asia. All this makes it necessary to look into the possibility of establishing new relations in Asia.

There are also enormous developments in southern Africa, which might, and I repeat might—if they continue—require us to establish relations with South Africa. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Minister, a great deal has been said about hesitation in convening a Maghreb summit. What is the background of that, and what are the causes of delaying the work? We have noticed that nothing has happened to the Arab Maghreb.

[Brahimi] God willing, nothing will happen to the Arab Maghreb. However, there are objective difficulties. The first problem which has led to the postponement of the [Arab Maghreb Union, AMU] summit is that the brothers in Mauritania held a series of elections which ended a short while ago, and on this occasion we would like to express our best wishes to our brothers there and wish them success with the new system they have established.

Then, there was the Libyan problem. Libya's problem lies in the great crisis which that country is facing in its relations with the superpowers and in the regrettable resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the sanctions imposed against Libya. In fact, this is what is delaying the convening of the summit. However, contacts are continuing and you may be aware that only two days ago the AMU secretary general and the Mauritanian undersecretary for Maghreb Affairs, in view of Mauritania being the current chairman of the Union, were here and they talked to us; then they went to Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya.

[Correspondent] Can we say that the summit will be convened when conditions improve?

[Brahimi] Evidently.

[Correspondent] The issue of the summit is possible, and in Mauritania.

[Brahimi] Yes, yes.

[Correspondent] Minister, we will remain in the region, and move on to another issue, namely the issue of Western Sahara. A great deal has been said by the Moroccan media, particularly since Mohamed Boudiaf's return, to the effect that the Algerian stance regarding the Saharan issue may have changed. What is Algeria's stance, at least at the level of international bodies? What are the principles? Have they changed or not?

[Brahimi] Principles cannot change. We regret that this problem exists and regret that it continues, and we hope that a satisfactory conclusion will be found for it. In order not to go on, the issue has been submitted to the Security Council. There is a Security Council resolution, and there is now a mechanism in practice which is called MINURSO [UN Mission for Referendum in the

Sahara]. There are forces in Western Sahara and on the borders of Western Sahara in Algeria and Mauritania. There is a detailed proposal on the conclusion of the issue by the Security Council. [passage omitted]

A new representative of the UN secretary general has been appointed. He came to us and we talked to him, and we stressed that we wanted to help with the implementation of the UN plan. The UN plan was there before brother President Mohamed Boudiaf returned, and it has remained there after President Mohamed Boudiaf's return. Algeria supported the plan before Mohamed Boudiaf's return and it will continue to support it after brother Mohamed Boudiaf's return. [passage omitted]

We have recalled our ambassador for consultation [from Belgrade] and we have not severed relations, and we hope that we will not sever relations with Yugoslavia. There are resolutions, with great regret, resolutions passed by the Security Council, and very severe sanctions against the Belgrade rulers. No doubt, we are forced to implement them. However, we will have consultations with the Yugoslavs.

[Correspondent] Algeria will adhere to the sanctions imposed by the Security Council?

[Brahimi] Essentially.

[Correspondent] Whoever talks about Yugoslavia will point, from far or near, to the Nonaligned Movement [NAM]. It has been stated that the movement will hold its meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia. Some people say—not officially, but for political consumption—that it was born there and it will return there to die. How do you assess the NAM, what is Algeria's role in it, and is it possible to say that the NAM has finished when the bilateral polarisation has ended? Does the NAM have a future?

[Brahimi] Evidently. There is simplification and untruths in that statement. The NAM was not born in Indonesia; the African-Asian conference—the African-Asian Solidarity—was born in Bandung in 1955. There is no doubt that it was one of the main constituent pillars of NAM. The NAM was born in Belgrade in September 1961. Briefly, the NAM's mission was not that we should be at an equal distance between two countries. No, the [idea of] NAM was that we should be independent of strong countries that wanted to impose their control and hegemony on small countries. [passage omitted]

NCC Returning to 'Normal Political Life'

LD0206202492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] At a news conference today, the chairman of the National Consultative Council, NCC, stressed that the NCC is working toward the return to normal political life according to the legal provisions presented by the Higher State Council. Here is Ahmed Mega'ache with what went on at this news conference.

[Mega'ache] At the news conference, Mr. Redha Malek, the chairman of the NCC, denied that the issues being discussed were confidential. He said the work of the NCC is to prepare the conditions for a return to a normal political life according to the legal provisions presented by the Higher State Council.

This first ordinary session, he said, began by looking into six legal texts pertaining to economic and social life, and some important and vital questions about them were put to the head of government.

The journalists' questions were predominantly about the powers of the NCC. Mr. Redha Malek said they do not go beyond the laws defined by the Higher State Council.

Replying to a question about the abolishing of the law of Arabization, Mr. Redha Malek said the NCC had so far not received anything about this subject, however, he does not exclude the examination of this law before 5 July, the date set for its implementation.

Mr. Redha Malek concentrated on relations between the NCC and the press and said it should be based on sound methods that ensure the transmission of information in an objective framework to the public.

Ghozali Chairs Government Council Meeting 31 May

LD0106162292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] The Government Council met today under the chairmanship of Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the head of government. The following points were examined at the meeting: preparations for the supplementary financial bill for 1992; the 1988 bill on economic reform; a possible IMF loan for a pilot project on public health; problems related to financing vocational skills; and executive orders.

'New Cooperation Method' Cited for Oil Prospecting

LD3005230192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 May 92

[Excerpt] The National Company for the Transport and Marketing of Hydrocarbons [SONATRACH] will sell geophysical data to whoever wants to prospect for oil in our country. This emerged this morning at the Sofitel Hotel, where world companies have already expressed interest in this new cooperation method as it will save time for all. Mohamed Belachia reports:

[Belachia] SONATRACH met representatives of 15 international companies specializing in oil prospecting and recovery [istirja] at the Sofitel Hotel this morning to brief them on the new cooperation methods in prospecting combustibles. The new way is based on making available all the geophysical data about the concerned regions to international companies' prospectors to save time and give more opportunities to world companies to examine this data before making their bids and taking financial risks. This replaces the old cooperation

method, based on direct negotiation and the fact that the company used to come and carry out the research itself. During this meeting, SONATRACH presented data to the international companies and concluded 15 oil prospecting contracts covering a total surface of 166,050 square kilometers. [passage omitted]

Regional Appeal Councils Set Up; Detainees Freed

LD0206201792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] In accordance with decree number 44/92 dated 9 February 1992, the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of the state of emergency, informs the public that in accordance with the laws in force, six regional appeal councils have been set up in Algiers, Blida, Oran, Bechar, Ouargla, and Constantine. These six appeal councils, which are made up of independent citizens known for their commitment to the public interest, have begun their work to examine requests for appeals and releases made by the people who are held in security centers or by their families or advisers.

These councils can now look into some cases which deserve immediate attention. The families, the relatives, or the advisers who wish to exercise this right of appeal, which is guaranteed by the law, are invited to get in touch with the authorities of the province of their residence. The authorities will then supply them with all the necessary additional information.

This was a statement by the Interior Ministry. Moreover, it was learned today from the authorities in charge of the state of emergency in Ouargla that a total of 351 detainees have been released from the security centers in southeast Algeria. The same source added that 217 detainees have been released from Said Otba security center in Ouargla, 128 from Bordj Omar Driss, in the province of Illizi, and 6 others from Menea security center. According to the Algerian Press Service, more detainees will be released in the next few days. This operation will continue until the celebration of the blessed 'Id al-Adha [expected around 11 June in Algeria].

It is worth mentioning that similar releases have already taken place.

80 Terrorist Group Members Still at Large

LD0106201992 Algiers APS in Arabic 0925 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Figures indicate that 80 of the 224 persons who are are currently being pursued are still on the run. The same source added that the number of recovered weapons amount to about 250, and that the number of weapons which are still in the possession of the pursued groups "which are not designated for hunting" are estimated at about 100.

The National Gendarmerie Command pointed out that the majority of terrorist acts which occurred in Algeria since the Guemar issue have been committed by terrorists concentrated in Algiers and its suburbs. Since last May the security forces have intensified their activity, which is aimed at dismantling the armed groups, and have succeeded in arresting three armed groups implicated in terrorist attacks.

Sixty Killed; 250 Weapons Recovered

LD0106205892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The National Gendarmerie Command stated that its services have done a great deal in dismantling armed groups. Only 80 armed people are thought to be currently stationed in the Mitidja region near the capital. The Gendarmerie statement indicated that 60 people were killed during the chase of armed people, and 250 weapons were recovered.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From 'Arafat

NC0206144892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] President Mubarak received a telephone call from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at noon today. 'Arafat thanked the president for asking about his health following his surgery. 'Arafat also expressed appreciation for President Mubarak's telephone call to al-Husayn Medical Center yesterday evening and for delegating the Egyptian Embassy charge d'affaires in the Jordanian capital to visit him.

King Fahd Phones Mubarak To Discuss Developments

NC0206191392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Jun (MENA)—Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, held a telephone conversation with President Mubarak this evening to exchange views about current Arab and international developments.

They also exchanged views about ways to bolster cooperation to serve the Arab and Muslim cause.

Al-Baz Returns From 'Crisis' Talks in Libya

NC0206135692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo today after a two-day visit to Libya.

During the visit, al-Baz held talks with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The talks

focused on ways to reach a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis and halt the escalation of the situation.

A meeting is scheduled between Libyan and British Government representatives in Geneva in the next few days, during which the Libyan side will provide British officials with details of previous cooperation between Libya and the IRA within the context of Libya's acceptance to deal positively with Security Council Resolution 731 about combating terrorism.

Iranians Said Training Fundamentalists in Sudan

NC0206145092 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 41

[Text] Sources close to Egyptian security bodies revealed that the security forces are currently increasing their surveillance of the crossing points along the Egyptian-Sudanese border. Security forces monitored three camps supervised by Iranian officers who are training Egyptians from fundamentalist organizations about how to conduct operations inside Egypt.

The same sources also disclosed that security bodies fear other experienced groups—who participated in missions in Afghanistan under Iranian orders—might join the fundamentalists. These groups were supplied with forged identification cards, sophisticated camouflage, and shown how to mislead the security forces and conduct operations on Egyptian territory.

Debts to Denmark Rescheduled; Japan Offers Grant

NC0206191892 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 May 92 p 1

[Text] An agreement was signed yesterday to reschedule Egypt's $220-million debt to Denmark. Repaying the debt is to be completed in the year 2026. Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, signed the agreement for Egypt, while Karl Lohan, ambassador at the Danish Foreign Ministry [name and title as received], signed for Denmark.

Japan, meanwhile, decided to give Egypt a $54-million grant for implementing a project to renovate Martyr Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel. Egypt will receive the grant in four installments.

AL-AKHBAR earlier disclosed in a series of reports the tunnel's defects.

Economy Minister Meets Polish Economic Delegation

NC0106210492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1242 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—Economy Minister Mustafa met with today a Polish economic delegation currently visiting Cairo, led by Vaclav Newrfsky, deputy minister of economic relations [name and title as received].

The conferees reviewed trade and economic cooperation between both countries and ways to revive trade transactions, which decreased in recent years. Egypt's exports to and imports from Poland in the last three years totaled around $56 million.

Dr. Mustafa stated at the meeting the importance of exchanging visits between officials and between (?businessmen) to promote relations and trade between Egypt and Poland.

Dr. 'Ali Baradah, counselor at the trade representation [not further specified], said that the economy minister invited the Polish side to participate in exhibitions held in Egypt, such as the Cairo International Fair and the Egyptian Exports Exhibition.

Baradah added that they discussed the possibility of signing equal trade agreements between both countries. He emphasized the role of public and private businesses in these agreements. The Egyptian side is aware of the problems facing implementing such agreements, particularly the Poles' lack of hard currency.

Baradah said Dr. Mustafa also discussed the possibility of establishing a joint Egyptian-Polish businessmen's council to discuss prospects for joint investment and bilateral cooperation. He noted that a number of Egyptian businessmen wish to establish tourism ventures in Poland.

AL-AHRAM Editorials View Current Developments

U.S Urged To Halt Israeli Raids

NC0106081892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jun (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM urges the United States to press Israel to stop its raids in Lebanon. The paper says that the United States should deal with the situation seriously and firmly instead of calling on Israel, Syria, and Lebanon to exercise restraint.

AL-AHRAM says that Hizballah's activities are confined to the so-called border strip occupied by Israel and therefore represent a legitimate national liberation struggle. Hizballah's activities do not extend to Israel itself, the paper states.

AL-AHRAM says that calls for restraint equate an aggressor and occupier that conducts fierce raids on an independent and sovereign country with those who defend their land. The paper notes that Shamir has publicly threatened to continue the raids until Hizballah stops its attacks and lays down its weapons. Shamir also blamed Syria for the current situation.

The paper says the claim that Hizballah's attacks are a threat to Israel's existence is being used as a nasty pretext to increase the size of the border strip and carve off other chunks of Lebanese soil. Israel's continued raids are

disproportionate to Hizballah's activities, the paper says, adding that resistance to occupation is a legitimate right.

AL-AHRAM concludes by calling for a firmer U.S. position that deals with the facts and does not equate the aggressor with the victim. Otherwise, the paper says, U.S. credibility in the Arab world will be shaken once again.

Palestinian Infighting Viewed

NC0206202892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says a warning by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, against Palestinian infighting in the occupied territories came at the right time.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM notes that this fighting threatens the Palestinian intifadah. The paper refers to the liquidation of traitors who collaborate with the Israeli enemy, saying that this is a new development in the Palestinian position. The paper says that at first the Palestinian leaders encouraged liquidation, considering it the other side of the liberation struggle, but the enemy infiltrated and divided the Palestinian ranks, turning the issue of seeking retribution on the traitors into settling accounts and acts of revenge and retaliation among rival groups to gain superiority and control.

The paper notes that when things went too far, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat intervened and demanded a halt to traitors' liquidation. The paper says that when it first began on 9 December 1987, the Palestinian intifadah was very well organized and remained so for four years, impressing the world with its strength. Then fatigue spread among its organizational ranks, although the struggle continued and stones became knives and firearms. The intifadah became individualist and the occupation authorities stepped up their repressive and brutal measures, even forming death squads to get rid of young Palestinians.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying that today's catastrophe of Palestinian internal strife proves that the Israelis are finally dividing the Palestinians, which must be cautioned against to save the entire intifadah from collapse.

UN 'Slow' To Help Bosnia

NC0306102992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM comments about the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis. It discusses the Security Council resolution imposing sanctions—which could develop into military measures to force Serbia to halt its ugly aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina and withdraw its forces—and the 15-day grace period Serbia was given to comply with the resolution.

The paper says: The Security Council was very slow in helping Bosnia, which has a Muslim majority. The number of killed and wounded has reached the tens of thousands, and there are 1 million refugees. An excuse might be that Bosnia was not a UN member, but this is not acceptable. There are other collective measures that could be taken to help new countries overcome their problems, especially if these countries have been recognized on a bilateral basis from the beginning. This is at least one element of the new world order.

Even now that the resolution has been passed, AL-AHRAM asks, how can the Serbs be given a 15-day grace period to comply while their artillery, rockets, and planes bomb Bosnia around the clock? This might tempt the Serbs to continue their attacks until they completely destroy the Bosnian resistance, massacre and disperse its people, and occupy its territory. On the last day of the grace period, after subjugating the new republic, they could cease firing and profess compliance with the resolution, and stall during the settlement process.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: Serbia has usurped Yugoslavia's heritage, and is not recognized by the international community because of its hostile actions. Why the delay in enacting immediate and appropriate deterrence? It has violated every principle, standard, and law, and is at odds with the entire international community. Why is it not dealt with immediately with all available force?

President Mubarak on Bid To Improve Economy

NC0206162092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Jun (MENA)—President Mubarak affirmed that the Egyptian economy is improving faster than expected. He said that the state is doing its best to increase wages to a level at which the gap can be closed between wages and prices, which has become a problem for many countries.

This came at the president's meeting today with the Presidential Guards commanders and officers at a ceremony marking the guards' anniversary. Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and Major General Mamduh al-Zuhayri, Presidential Guards Forces commander, attended the ceremony.

President Mubarak said in his address that Egypt was the first to introduce the recent economic changes to improve living conditions for all people.

He asserted that he will adhere to the policy of frankness and putting the facts before the public, "because hiding the facts destroys all hopes."

The president also reviewed the monumental, successive international changes and then watched a multistage exhibition by the Presidential Guard Forces. [passage omitted]

At the end of the show, President Mubarak, accompanied by General Tantawi, inspected some new Presidential Guard facilities and afterward met with the commanders and officers at the Presidential Guards Club.

Major General Mamduh al-Zuhayri, commander of the Presidential Guard Forces, delivered a speech asserting his men's commitment to preserving by all means the legitimacy chosen by the people. He also lauded the enormous accomplishments made over the past 10 years during President Mubarak's rule.

Musa Cited on State's Goals, Bosnia-Hercegovina

NC0106184492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Egypt's primary goals are to achieve stability and development and that Egypt does not make a trade of religion. He added that Egypt works to establish respect for its true identity as an Arab state that has a responsibility for establishing an Arab system based on stability, guaranteeing Arab countries' safety and achieving their security, and nonintervention in any Arab country's (?internal) affairs.

The foreign minister delivered a statement at a joint meeting of the Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committees of the People's Assembly.

He said that Egypt took immediate measures to face the Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, beginning with an early denunciation of this aggression, which Egypt raised with the Nonaligned countries in Indonesia.

The foreign minister added that Egypt asserted its rejection of Yugoslavia's chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement, because Yugoslavia's acts are incompatible with the movement's principles.

Security Forces, 'Extremist' Group Clash

NC0206171492 Cairo MENA in English 1640 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, June 2 (MENA)—Mukhtar Sa'd Ahmad, a member of an extremist group in Dayrut, was killed today, and an eight-year-old girl was injured during a shootout between security forces and extremist groups.

Security forces were combing Masarah village here in search of outlaws when they were met with a barrage of fire from extremists. Another exchange of fire occurred between extremists and policemen in Mubarak District here, which ended with the arrest of another extremist.

One soldier was injured in the shootout, and a number of rounds of ammunition were found on the extremist.

Libya

Report on DPRK 'Nodong-1' Missile Deal Denied

LD0206174692 Tripoli JANA in English 1703 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Italian newspaper CORRIERE DE LA SERRA claimed yesterday, quoting sources connected to Western intelligence that the Libyans are negotiating deals to acquire a new missile made by North Korea and called Nodong-1 and that Libya is preparing to manufacture the missile locally.

The Italian paper alleged that a deal was struck with some German companies to produce a missile with a range of thousand kilo-metres and that several components of the missile were seized in European ports.

The JANA international affairs editor wrote the following comment in respect of this report.

Those allegations perpetuated by the Italian CORRIERE DE LA SERRA come within the pattern of the vicious campaign launched by the Western press and the international intelligence agencies.

The editor indicated that misleading reports are quite obvious and clear within those allegations as no party or any European country has declared that they seized any military equipment destined to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The editor said that the Great Jamahiriyah catagorically denies those allegations which come within the Western media campaign of which the objectives and demensions against the Arab Libyan people are well known as they are manipulated by Western circles.

Proposal To Annex Italian Islands Welcomed

LD0206222592 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] (?Giuseppe Calabrese), mayor of Italy's Tremiti island, has expressed his wish that the four Tremiti islands be annexed to Libya and be considered a natural extension of it.

In statements published by the Italian news agency ANSA and the major Italian newspapers LA REPUBBLICA, IL MESSAGERO, IL GIORNALE, IL TEMPO, LA STAMPA, and L'UNITA, he said he intends to submit a proposal to the municipal council of the four islands about the matter.

(?Giuseppe) pointed out that he has sent an open letter in this regard to the Italian president and the governor of the province.

The Tremiti mayor lauded the stance of the brother leader of the revolution toward the four islands and their inhabitants, who do not enjoy tangible care from their government.

JANA's international affairs editor welcomes the Italian official's proposal.

He said: If the four Tremiti islands join the Great Jamahiriyah, then it will fully shoulder their responsibility.

He added: If you scorn this proposal, why do you not scorn the joining of the Pacific Ocean [as heard] Canary Islands to Spain or the Mayotte islands to France or the Malvinas islands in Latin America to Britain or Guyana [as heard] to France?

JANA's international affairs editor pointed out that the inhabitants of the four Tremiti islands are of 100-percent Libyan origin because they are the grandchildren of the Libyans who were expelled on 26 October 1911 to these islands. That is why they do not enjoy any attention or care.

Public Works Secretary Receives Polish Delegation

LD0206202292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Jun (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Services and Public Works had a meeting in Tripoli this morning with the Polish banking delegation currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah in the framework of preparation for the meetings of the Arab Libyan-Polish joint committee. During this meeting, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Services and Public Works stressed the friendly relations existing between the Great Jamahiriyah and Poland, and the importance of strengthening and promoting them in the interest of the two peoples.

For his part, the head of the Polish delegation reiterated the Polish people's support for and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in facing up to the coercive and unjust measures imposed against it. The head of the Polish delegation underlined the wish of his country to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Great Jamahiriyah in all domains. This meeting was attended by a number of experts and specialists in the economic field from the Great Jamahiriyah and Poland.

Bahrain

Amir, Premier Receive Indian Minister of State

JN3005170392 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Manama, May 30 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al-Khalifah and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al-Khalifah received this morning the visiting Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro and his accompanying delegation.

Present were the Minister of the Interior and Acting Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah al-Khalifah, the Assistant Interior Undersecretary for Immigration and Passports Affairs Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah al-Khalifah and the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Nathu Ram Verma.

In a statement to GNA, the Indian minister said that the audience discussed issues of mutual interest, prospects of enhancing bilateral relations, the latest Gulf and Arab developments and other issues of common interest.

He added that he conveyed an official invitation to H.H. the amir and the prime minister to visit India.

Indian Minister Departs Manama 31 May

JN3105083192 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 31 May 92

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 May (WAKH)—Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for external affairs, left Manama this morning following a two-day visit to Bahrain. During the visit, he held talks on bolstering bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Meets With UN Official on Border

LD0106181992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1541 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jun, (KUNA)—The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, met this morning in his office with the UN assistant secretary general for peace-keeping affairs, Kofi Anan, and his accompanying delegation.

After the meeting, Shaykh Salim told KUNA that he dealt with the issue of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and the UN Iraqi-Kuwaiti Observation Mission, UNIKOM, which is present there.

He added that Mr. Anan informed him during the meeting that the the present UNIKOM commander would be transferred and replaced by another.

The meeting was attended by the undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, and the director of the European and Americas Department [at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs], Ambassador Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwa.

Mr. Anan arrived in the country this morning on a two-day official visit.

Oman

Relations With Turkmenia Established 29 May

JN2905152792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpt] Moscow, 29 May (WAKH)—The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Turkmenia have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Israeli 'Bestial Acts' in Lebanon Condemned

JN3005160492 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Doha, 30 May (WAKH)—Qatar has condemned Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and urges the international community to put an end to them.

Qatar watches these repeated attacks with deep concern and vigorously condemns such bestial acts. These acts belie Israeli protestations of an interest in regional peace, an official Foreign Ministry source told the QATARI NEWS AGENCY.

Qatar appeals to the international community and world organizations, above all the UN Security Council, to redouble their efforts and to act to curb such warlike acts and force Israeli compliance with UN resolutions and respect for Lebanon's sovereignty. The source called on Israel to honor Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, in order to propel the Middle East peace process forward and to advance the odds of achieving a just, comprehensive, and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Cable From Sudan's Numayri

LD0206200492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a cable from field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. Here is its text:

To King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect and look after him.

While we were in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, we heard that gang leader, 'Umar al-Bashir, has uttered obscene

words which we would not stoop to repeat. He was trying to cast doubts on the regime of Saudi Arabia and its firm sacrosanct things.

In this quickly compiled letter, I am not going to defend you, as you are more knowledgeable and capable of replying to him. [passage omitted] Honorable brother, I hope that my letter will intercede for the Sudanese people, who are innocent of everything 'Umar al-Bashir and his lackeys have said and done against Saudi Arabia and its honest statesmen. The Sudanese people have suffered enormously from that unjust regime. However, the consolation is that the Sudanese people are awaiting the day soon to come when they will remove that tyrant who has been sitting on the chest of the people until hunger, sickness, poverty, thirst, and isolation from brothers and friends have become permanent characteristics, something which has made the world feel sorry for Sudan. [passage omitted]

Long live the friendship of the Saudi-Sudanese peoples; long live the Government of Saudi Arabia, headed by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two Holy mosques.

Best wishes to you.

[Signed] Your brother, Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

Yemen

U.S. Support for Resolving Border Dispute Noted

JN0206094092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received a reply from U.S. President George Bush dealing with issues of interest to the two friendly nations.

The message asserted U.S. concern for resolving border problems between Yemen and Saudi Arabia peacefully and by having recourse to dialogue, understanding, and negotiations. The message also emphasized that the United States always feels that there are appropriate ways, other than the use of force, to resolve border disputes.

The message also welcomed Yemen's desire to resolve border disputes with Saudi Arabia through direct negotiations, as expressed by the brother vice chairman of the Presidential Council in his letter to President Bush. The U.S. president also affirmed that the United States encourages the two parties to start negotiations.

The message was conveyed by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Sanaa when the brother president received him today.

Shelling Exchanged Between Army, Tribes in al-Jawf

JN3005163192 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 May 92 p 1

[By Ahmad al-Jabali]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—Informed sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that the shelling exchanged between tribes in the al-Jawf Governorate and Yemeni Armed Forces units stationed in the area was halted the day before yesterday [25 May] following the arrival of a governmental committee led by Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff for operations, and the al-Jawf governor.

The source said that the tribes in the area have asked for $400 million in compensation from the state to pay for the damage inflicted on the citizens and their property.

The government has not yet made any official statement on the origin of the problem between the Army and the tribes. Eyewitnesses, however, say that an argument between Army personnel and a citizen on Thursday led to the use of weapons and the injury of a citizen. The eyewitnesses note that this is not the first incident of its kind in the area. [passage omitted]

Fire Exchanged Between Army, Tribes in al-Jawf

JN3005163192 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 27 May 92 p 1

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Regime Said Training Sudan 'Terrorist' Groups

NC0206163292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] According to press sources, officers of the tyrant Saddam Husayn are training terrorist groups belonging to several countries in the region. Iraqi fighter planes are being used in the training programs. The planes were sent to Sudan as part of a previous agreement between Saddam and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. The sources say that there is a state of alert on Egypt's southern border to confront any attempt to infiltrate into that country.

Sudanese Minister Conveys al-Bashir's Greetings

JN0206094492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and vice president of the Republic, today received Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, Sudanese minister of higher education and scientific research, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The Sudanese delegate conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Sudanese President 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir.

The letter carries greetings to President Saddam Husayn from his brother President 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir and his pride in the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as Sudan's concern—leadership and people—to pursue serious efforts to promote and expand these relations in all spheres. The letter also affirms Sudan's adherence to, and defense of, its pan-Arab stands. [passage omitted]

List of Assets, Funds To Be Reported to UN

JN3005183092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—In an open session held today under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the National Assembly approved the recommendation made by the Assembly's Financial, Administrative, Legal, and Arab and International Relations Committees to support the proposal made by Iraq's permanent legation in New York to inform various states of the Iraqi assets and funds held in those states.

The committees justified their support for the proposal by the fact that such a measure will guarantee Iraq's rights in other countries, particularly the Iraqi funds held in foreign banks, and they will inform the Security Council of these rights. It will also protect Iraqi rights in the future and prevent any manipulation or denial of them.

It is worth noting that the legation's proposals suggest that Iraq should provide the Sanctions Committee with a list containing Iraqi assets and funds and the names of the states where these assets are being held.

In its open session today, the Assembly hosted representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank of Iraq.

Oil Minister on War Damage, Reconstruction

JN3105081892 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 27 May 92 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti on the occasion of the 20th oil nationalization anniversary, which falls on 1 June, by Ikram Najm; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Najm] How much damage did oil installations sustain as a result of the 30-state aggression?

[Al-Hiti] The 30-state aggression targeted oil production installations, service facilities, pumping stations, oil reservoirs, ports, refineries, and gas exploitation plants. The aggression caused serious damage to the refining industry. The supplies of oil products, which are largely connected with the national economy and people's lives, were affected by the aggression. This paralyzed the life and economy of the country.

One hundred and eighty main sites for oil production and refining were the target of savage bombardment. Ten to 100 percent of the oil refining sector facilities was destroyed. Production capacity dwindled to zero. The number of air raids mounted on oil sites totaled 2,500. In these raids, hundreds of thousands of bombs were dropped on these sites. As of November 1991, approximately 150,000 bombs had been taken away from these sites. The oil sector lost many martyrs in these raids. Other oil personnel were injured while they were performing their duties at oil installations. As a result of this aggression, power generation stations, fertilizer industries, petrochemical industries, and other projects went out of action. The extent of damage inflicted on oil drilling installations was huge and immense.

[Najm] How would you estimate the losses sustained by the oil sector?

[Al-Hiti] The overall direct losses sustained by the oil sector totaled more than $6 billion.

[Najm] Would you brief us on the reconstruction of the damaged oil installations that has been accomplished thus far?

[Al-Hiti] Since the day the cease-fire went into effect, the mujahidin working in the oil sector have been engaged in an enormous endeavor. They unleashed their potentials to restore the damaged oil installations. Intensive programs were set and an urgent plan was adopted to rebuild the refining sector at the urging of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. The ministry supervised the entire endeavor. Thus, it was possible to operate major

refineries again to secure the required quantities of oil products and liquid gas for citizens, and also to operate industrial and service projects. We became capable of refining approximately 580,000 barrels per day [bpd]. This refining capacity was rendered zero during the aggression. This figure shows that 84 percent of the pre-aggression refining capacity was restored. The oil sector is resolutely pursuing a plan to complete the reconstruction of the destroyed installations and facilities to render them better than they were before the aggression. The upcoming phase will witness a large expansion in the activities of the oil sector, particularly after the blockade imposed on Iraq is lifted.

With respect to oil drilling, oil production installations as well as service facilities sustained serious damage and were rendered inoperable. Thanks to the reconstruction endeavor of the mujahidin working in the oil sector, these installations and facilities have been rebuilt. Right now, the production capacity is 2 million bpd. Efforts are currently under way to raise this to 3.5 million bpd, the pre-aggression production capacity. Three out of four loading jetties of Mina' al-Bakr have been rendered operational. It is hoped that the fourth jetty will be rebuilt within the next few weeks. These jetties will have an export capacity of 1.2 million bpd via the Arabian Gulf. The Iraqi-Turkish pipeline also became operational after the second pumping station, which was destroyed during the aggression, had been repaired. This pipeline is capable of exporting more than 1 million bpd. Furthermore, the border stations serving the Iraqi pipeline which passes through Saudi territory have also been repaired.

[Najm] What projects will be inaugurated on the 20th nationalization anniversary?

[Al-Hiti] The projects to be inaugurated on this occasion include a plant for manufacturing plastic containers as well as a plant for filling 5-litre oil cans at the lubricants refinery in al-Basrah. These cans will be marketed in all southern governorates. Likewise, and to break the blockade, the ministry cadres managed to produce gasoline pumps, along with their metal covers, which are used in gas stations. This is the first time gas pumps have been manufactured in Iraq, using domestic raw materials—these pumps used to be imported. As part of this reconstruction endeavor, other projects will be inaugurated at the Southern Petroleum Organization, including the completion of the Organization's management building, the al-Zubayr-southern al-Rumaylah reservoir, the al-Zubayr-2 communications center, and the turbine unit at the al-Zubayr-1-al-Barjisiyah reservoir. Moreover, workshops containing oil engineering equipment in al-Zubayr as well as a complex for drilling liquids in northern al-Rumaylah will be inaugurated, not to mention the inauguration of al-Sibah camp by the Iraqi Drilling Corporation. [passage omitted]

Officials Discuss Oil Production

JN3105144092 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 31, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper today reported that Iraq is ready to export three million barrels per day after oil sector cadres managed to reconstruct the damaged pumping stations and other installations during the U.S.-led aggression on the country.

The paper quoted the oil undersecretary as saying that the strenuous efforts of the oil cadre was successful in reconstructing and restoring to service Iraq's vital oil utilities.

In a press statement to AL-THAWRAH published here today, director of the North Oil Company Ghazi Sabir 'Ali said that technical and engineering oil cadres tomorrow will start the drilling of the first wildcat operation in Iraq's western Sahara in Akaz [name as received] area, 25 km south of al-Qa'im, along the Iraqi-Syrian borders. The oil senior official said drilling the first oil well in that area would be the beginning for extensive operations to exploit the country's oil riches.

In other press statements by Iraqi oil officials published by Iraqi press today on occasion of the oil nationalization celebrations to be observed tomorrow, the North Oil Company [NOC] director said Iraq can now export from Karkuk oilfields some 1,180,000 oil barrels per day via the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline as soon as the economic embargo is lifted, an Iraqi oil expert said on Thursday. He said the export capacity would be raised soon to pre-economic embargo level which stood at 1,200,000 barrels per day.

Iraq cannot now export oil because of the US-led and UN-imposed economic embargo which was clamped on Iraq on August 6, 1990 following Kuwait's events. also all Iraqi oil installations were heavily bombed during the US-led war.

Speaking on the 20th oil nationalization anniversary to be celebrated tomorrow, the NOC director-general told local reporters the export capacity of his company to the port city of al-Basrah in southern Iraq has been resumed at full capacity.

Eighty per cent of the company's export capacity via the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline has also been resumed, he added.

Oil production in the northern oilfields for domestic uses was resumed only 45 days following the end of military operations.

Mr 'Ali said on April 15, 1991 the company pumped crude oil to Bayji refineries in Salah al-Din province.

On April 28, 1991 car fuel was made available in abundance after it was distributed in trickle through coupons.

Oil production and export capacities by the Northern Oil Company were resumed following a massive reconstruction drive launched by the company over the last few months.

"The reconstruction of our oil installations in Karkuk was something close to a miracle", Mr 'Ali said.

He added that the company in this drive has relied on its own staff. The needed spare parts were manufactured by the company's various workshops.

The oil installations in Karkuk were heavily attacked during the US-led war against Iraq. Some 30 air raids were launched against Karkuk oil installations. As a result, almost all crude oil processing plants were destroyed. Also oil storage tanks, manifolds, spare parts, warehouses, and electrical stations were completely destroyed, director-general of NOC said.

The company's oil pumping stations in Bayji and al-Hadithah were also destroyed by allied missile and air attacks.

Mr 'Ali estimated the total loss in oil installations of the NOC alone at 250,000,000 dollars at prices at the time of attacks. "Now the prices are much higher", he said.

He added the company also came under heavy attacks during the acts of sabotage in northern Iraq. He said all offices, workshops, design centres, telecommunications centres and oil operation facilities were either looted or burned. He put the loss during the acts of terrorism at around 125,000,000 dollars.

Head of communications department Mr Falah al-Khawaja said almost all the company's telecommunications systems were destroyed during the war.

Those include the telecommunications centres of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline station No. 2, K3's telecommunications centre in al-Hadithah and Baba Gurgur telephone exchange were destroyed. These centres are used in pumping oil through the oil pipelines.

Head of the engineering committee Mr Mundhir Hassan 'Umar, a holder of MSC from Britain, said that the committee has exerted extraordinary efforts during the reconstruction drive launched by the company.

Muhammad 'Abbush, head of NOC oil pumping and exporting operations, said that his department has worked round the clock to reoperate the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline.

He said the company's oil pumping stations can now pump oil via the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline and via the strategic oil pipeline which pump oil to the port city of al-Basrah via K3, the oil pumping station in al-Hadithah.

Deputy Director of oil pumping and exporting operations Dr Muwaffaq al-Samadi said that following the oil nationalisation the company has achieved a lot of work on various fields. Many new oilfields have been discovered, he said, adding that an underground oil project was set up in al-Basrah area. Also oilfield in Bay Hassan and Qabbas [name as received] were developed, he concluded.

National Assembly Holds Final Spring Session

JN3105185092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] The National Assembly today concluded the meetings of its ordinary [spring] term by holding a closed meeting this morning under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent reports that during the two-month session, the people's representatives discussed a number of topics dealing with developments within the Arab and international arenas and a number of bills concerning economic and social issues.

State Agencies Begin To Rebuild in al-Sulaymaniyah

JN0206201892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Al-Rabi' area [placename as received], 2 Jun (INA)—State ministries and institutions have begun the process of restructuring administrative agencies in the al-Rabi' area of the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate in northern Iraq.

This was stated to an INA correspondent in the area by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Jaf, the acting governor of al-Sulaymaniyah. He added that the restructuring of the administrative institutions there is in implementation of orders by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He noted that efforts have begun to restructure the agencies affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior. These agencies offer wide-ranging services to residents of the governorate, including water and sewage services, not to mention the pavement of roads and the granting of civil status and Iraqi citizenship certificates.

The acting governor added that immense efforts are currently under way to carry out large-scale reconstruction there in order to rebuild government institutions and agencies, as well as employees' houses, which were severely damaged as a result of the acts perpetrated during the chapter of treachery and treason.

'Abd-al-Majid al-Jaf affirmed that all government agencies are willing to listen to the problems of citizens, to address these problems, and to reach urgent solutions that will meet the citizens' needs.

The acting governor urged employees to report to duty immediately in order to help the state departments begin work again and to render services to the governorate's residents.

Further Reportage on Kurdistan Issues, Elections

Talabani Attacks Regime, Lauds Elections

NC0106144092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1735 GMT 31 May 92

[Statement by Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, marking the anniversary of the establishment of the PUK on 1 June 1975; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On the anniversary of 1 June 1975, we must remember some lessons and examples. On that day, the PUK was formed in reaction to the setback the Kurdish revolution and liberation movement suffered following the treasonous Algiers Agreement, in which Iraq's dictator [Saddam Husayn] renounced Iraq's rights in Shatt al-'Arab. He also renounced other well-known Iraqi rights which even the agents of British imperialism, the government of [former Iraqi Prime Minister] Nuri al-Sa'id, and the defunct monarchy did not dare to renounce, regardless of the difficulties and problems they faced. Instead of seeking an agreement with the Kurdish people and their representatives, who did not demand more than autonomy within a unified, independent, and sovereign Iraq, the Ba'thist, 'Aflaqist Iraqi dictatorship, disregarding all ethical, struggle, and nationalist values and for the sake of remaining in power at any price, made these concessions to the shah of Iran in the Algiers Agreement.

The formation of the PUK was an answer to the setback and a rejection of its results, including the Iraqi dictatorship's control over the whole of Kurdistan. Therefore, the first task of the PUK was to address the dictatorial regime with the only language it understood, the language of armed struggle. [passage omitted]

The outbreak of the liberation and democratic revolution in Iraqi Kurdistan and the grave incidents which followed prove the need to fight dictatorship and to constantly work to form a unified Iraqi front embracing all the good forces which believe in a dignified, independent, and democratic Iraq—a front which will bring closer the day of salvation, end the dictatorship's crimes and sins, and stop the calamities and misfortunes which the dictatorship has wrought upon the Iraqi people, Army, and economy, upon Iraq's eastern and western neighbors, and upon the glorious Arab nation. The 1 June anniversary must be an inspiration for the proud Iraqi people to mobilize their resources to overthrow dictatorship and bury it in the dustbin of history.

The elections in Iraqi Kurdistan were held in a manner which aroused the admiration of foreign observers and journalists. Contrary to the expectations of the fascist dictatorship in Baghdad that these elections would trigger disputes among the basic forces and parties participating in the Kurdistan Front, these elections disappointed the dictatorship's hopes and intentions. These elections strengthened the unity of the Kurdish national ranks and consolidated the relations of struggle between the two basic parties within the Kurdistan Front. These elections again proved the need to rid Iraq of dictatorship. These elections were held to strengthen democracy and lay down its foundations in Iraqi Kurdistan before establishment throughout Iraq. These elections were held to consolidate the historic brotherhood between the fraternal Arab and Kurdish people, to buttress their national unity, and to establish a democratic, independent, and unified Iraqi entity. [passage omitted]

Our Iraqi people are determined to carry on the struggle to save Iraq from the unjust and criminal dictatorship. Therefore, this anniversary must be an inspiration for all the good forces in Iraq to marshal their ranks and mobilize their resources in a united Iraqi front that will lead our Iraqi people's struggle, save Iraq from dictatorship, and establish true democracy in Iraq. On this occasion, I appeal to our honorable officers in the Iraqi Army to think of the future of Iraq and its Army and to rise up to defend the Iraqi Army's dignity trodden under the feet of dictatorship. They must rise up to defend the Iraqi Army's honor, disgraced at the hands of the dictatorship. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker on Kurdish Elections

JN3005200892 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 27 May 92 p 6

[Interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Samir al-'Azzawi in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Azzawi] In your capacity as the National Assembly speaker, will you tell us about the constitutional position on the election farce in northern Iraq?

[Salih] The elections conducted in the northern part of Iraq are false from a constitutional and a legal viewpoint. They conflict with the Constitution and the Autonomy Law that organized the activities of the institutions of autonomy and the prerogatives pertaining to the setting of election dates and the way these elections should be conducted. These prerogatives are primary ones. Based on this, what has taken place recently is null and void, given that it is based on falsehood. From a political and a national viewpoint, these elections fall within the framework of high treason. What has taken place is a new chapter in the plotting against Iraq, its territorial integrity, and its people. This has been done through instigation from imperialism and Zionism and under their sponsorship with the objective of weakening Iraq and making it unable to play the role commensurate with its political, historical, and geographical weight in the region.

[Al-'Azzawi] How does the National Assembly view these elections and their results? Is there any way to return to dialogue and negotiations?

[Salih] Seeking the help of enemies against one's homeland is an exposed act of treason. The National Assembly held a special session during which it discussed this

subject. It issued a statement in which it described these elections as unconstitutional and clearly and frankly criticized those who stand behind them.

With regard to the second part of your question about dialogue and negotiations with these parties, I say that we support every step that will safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of its people, that will save it from further bloodshed, and that will achieve tranquillity, peace, security, and happiness for the Iraqi citizen. We will never hesitate to embark on such a step. I believe that the only condition that will be set for the resumption of dialogue and negotiations is that these parties must end their ties with the foreigner and stop relying on the enemies of their homeland. Such a policy is a futile one. This is especially true given that the experiments of the world's peoples and nations have proved that he who relies on the foreigner will lose everything, while he who relies on his homeland and people will win everything. We call on all of them to behave reasonably and to put the interests of the homeland and people above all parochial personal or party considerations in order to serve the people and to achieve their interests and aspirations.

[Al-'Azzawi] What is the impact of the so-called elections on the region, especially on the countries where Kurds live?

[Salih] When chaos erupts in some part of the world, it spreads to neighboring countries, especially if existing circumstances encourage and facilitate this. It is only natural for the negative ramifications of this situation to extend to Turkey and Iran. I believe that the neighboring countries are aware of the danger, but it is no longer easy to bring things under control. Whoever plays with this issue will be affected by the fire of sedition.

[Al-'Azzawi] To what purpose do the traitors talk about promoting autonomy and practicing democracy?

[Salih] If a developed autonomy is required, then we are ready to realize this objective. This actually exists, and there is no need for raising this slogan. The slogan of democracy is also unjustified because democracy and its manifestations do exist in Iraq. The Legislative Council was elected by the people. It was a product of legal and constitutional elections held in a normal climate. Everyone expressed his opinion freely in a secret ballot and in the presence of observers, correspondents, and journalists from throughout the world but mainly from Western countries. So, democracy, autonomy, and a Legislative Council do exist; they play their role, and there is not a single negative observation about them or about their performance.

We have performed our national duty. We have opened our hearts to them. We have met with them and held a dialogue proceeding from our concern about the interests of the homeland and the people. We have sought to work as one team, not two. But it would appear that they do not have their own mind; the decision is made by the United States and Britain. This is their point of weakness. When the time for the signing came, they did not sign.

It is still not too late. We still have a chance to reach a sound national solution removed from one-upmanship and from reliance on foreigners.

Legislative Council Term Extended

JN0206081592 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, June 1, INA—President Saddam Husayn has ordered the extension of the term of office of the Legislative Council of Kurdistan Autonomy Region, which ended on Sunday, for one year.

Mr Baha' al-Din Ahmad, Chairman of the Legislative Council told AL-JUMHURIYAH daily that this order by President Saddam Husayn comes as a response of legitimate aspirations and feelings of our Kurdish people, who suffer from exceptional force majeure because of the presence of the American and NATO forces in the region, in addition to the absence of security and stability.

He added, this order is considered as a new impetus for our Kurdish people to exert serious efforts to expel the foreign occupiers, foil their filthy plots aimed at tearing down the unity of the people and the homeland, overcome the exceptional circumstances in Kurdistan, and create the sound and democratic atmospheres to enable our Kurdish people exercising their rights to electing their real representatives in the forthcoming session of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council held its seventh and final meeting of its spring session for this year in Makhmur district in Irbil province. [passage omitted]

Turkish Bombing in Kurdistan Denounced

JN0206120992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1455 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The local committee of our Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Rawandoz has stated that on 31 May six Turkish planes bombed the following areas that are affiliated with (Sirajan) District in Irbil in Iraqi Kurdistan: (Daraw, Birsima, Lulan, Siadil), areas behind the housing vicinity, and (Khuwa Kursia).

As a result, Sulayman Ahmad, a resident of (Bastan) village in (Hirse) area, was martyred and others were injured. The Turkish bombing, which continued from 0900 until 1700, inflicted material damage on personal property in these areas.

On 26 May, Turkish planes also attacked (Duwayrith) village in (Galimasi) subdistrict that is part of (Barwan) area. Four people were martyred in the attack and others were injured. Those who were martyred are: Azad Ibrahim, Nizar Ramadan, Maryam Zaydu, and Millah Khan.

We strongly denounce these acts that conflict with the norms, laws, and relations of neighborliness, and do not serve the requirements and interests of stability and security in the region.

Opposition Forces Continue to Fight Regime

Al-Kut Ammunition Depots Destroyed

NC0106141192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1321 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Explosions shook the city of al-Kut for an entire day early this month [as heard] following a heroic operation by mujahidin groups. The operation targeted the collapsing regime's military ammunition depots in al-Kut. The depots remained ablaze for an entire day. The operation also resulted in the destruction of a military truck loaded with mines. Our revolutionaries also succeeded in burning seven military vehicles and injuring a number of the dictator Saddam regime's personnel, including three officers, who were hospitalized. Our revolutionary group returned safely to base.

Marshlands Bombarded By 'Heavy Artillery'

NC0206153292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] The marshlands in al-Nasiriyah Governorate are coming under fierce shelling, a development that may mark the beginning of a renewed offensive by the forces of the detested tyrant against the positions of the popular forces in the area. According to reports received from the south yesterday, the tyrant forces on 31 May used heavy artillery to bombard the areas in which the population is concentrated and destroy their means of livelihood. The amount of human or material losses is not yet known. Sources say that the current shelling is similar to that directed against the marshlands in al-'Amarah on 20 May.

Regime Reportedly Forms New 'Golden Division'

NC3005151992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1325 GMT 30 May 92

[Excerpt] The defeated regime recently formed a secret new division called the Golden Division, headquartered at Raban. The division is made up of soldiers known for their hostility to our people and even to their own tribes. It reportedly includes men from the 'Udad, al-Zulam, and [word indistinct] tribes, and from families who support Saddam's regime and treat the people in a vile and aggressive way. The new division has been well equipped. [passage omitted]

Saddam's Family Members Part of Guard

NC0106204992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The rejected regime has begun setting up secret units called the Golden Division [al-firqah al-dhahabiyah], comprised of close family members, in order to strengthen the guard around the tyrant, his headquarters, and his services.

Iraqi opposition sources said the tyrant was stunned and gripped with fear and tension following the distribution of leaflets in Baghdad last week calling on the Army and people to rise up against dictator Saddam and his rejected regime. The sources noted that the tyrant has asked all his security forces to be on a state of alert and mobilization.

Arens—Gaza Closed Due to Public 'Anger'

TA0206113092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that the desire to murder Jews exists among only a few residents in the territories and perhaps among a few Israeli Arabs. Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Arens said that the defense establishment is aware that the economic situation in Gaza is worse than in other parts of the territories and that the employment of laborers in Israel is an important component of the Gaza Strip's economy.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reported that the defense minister pointed out that the decision to impose a closure on the Gaza Strip was a result of the Israeli public's violent anger. Arens stressed that any decision to lift the closure will be taken only after holding consultations with the police and will have to take both the economic aspect and the possibility of a renewed public outburst into account.

Blockade To Be Lifted 'Gradually'

TA0206124292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Brigadier General Dov Gazit, head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration, today met with some directors of Gaza Strip institutions, including Mr. Muhammad al-Yaziji, head of the Industrial Federation; Mr. Muhammad al-Qidwah, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Mahmud al-Zahar. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that they discussed lifting the security closure of the Gaza Strip, as well as some issues relating to the Gaza municipality. Those personalities called on the head of the Civil Administration to lift the closure because it causes losses for factory owners, as well as for Gaza Strip workers, at a time when the Strip is suffering from an economic crisis. They also called for the road between Dayr al-Balah and Rafah, which was closed after last week's murder of a Kfar Darom resident, to be opened. The head of the Civil Administration promised to resolve the problems mentioned, and he explained to the personalities that the reason for the closure was to protect Gaza Strip workers in the wake of the Bat Yam incidents. He said that the closure will be lifted gradually soon.

Al-Husayni Meets Consuls on Closure

TA0206181892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni met this afternoon at the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem with a number of foreign consuls. Our correspondent reports that at the meeting Palestinian figures reviewed the situation in the Gaza Strip following the security closure imposed there eight days ago. They called on the consuls to have the closure lifted.

In the Gaza Strip, a number of Palestinian figures met today with the deputy head of the UN Works and Relief Agency and called on him to provide urgent aid to Gaza Strip residents in the wake of the security closure.

Curfews Lifted on Refugee Camps

TA0306055692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] This morning the security forces lifted the curfews on the al-Nusayrat, al-Burayj, and al-Mughazi refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. The curfew in Dayr al-Balah remains in effect.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Gaza Strip closure is in its 10th day.

Gaza Closure 'Collective Punishment'

TA0306054392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] In Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, three Arabs were wounded by Army gunfire in rioting which took place despite the curfew.

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, a member of the Palestinian representation to the peace talks, says the prolonged closure of the Gaza Strip is collective punishment which is not the way to deal with the spate of stabbing attacks. Dr. al-Agha said most of the Arab population in the Strip opposes killing innocent civilians and that the Israeli authorities should deal with those guilty, not with the general population.

In Samaria, four firebombs were hurled last night at civilians and soldiers. No one was injured and there was no damage.

Arens Orders 1-Week Closure of Nabulus University

TA0206193392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Al-Najah University in Nabulus will be closed for a week starting tomorrow. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this evening the defense minister endorsed the recommendation submitted by security officials that the university be closed due to violence and riots that took place in it.

Al-Najah University was reopened some eight months ago following an agreement between the administration and the defense establishment that there would be no disturbances on campus and that it would only serve as an academic institute.

71 Suspects Detained in 'Aqrabah; 7 Gazans Wounded

TA0206114892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 92 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] In a wide-ranging operation by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces, under the command of the Colonel Z., the commander of the Nabulus region, 71 people suspected of terrorist activity and of murdering locals were detained last Saturday in the village of 'Aqrabah.

It was reported that the IDF closed the entire region, raided the village, and detained the suspects. A senior military source described the operation as "a big success." He said that it was carried out at the brigade level and that the forces permanently deployed in the area were reinforced.

Senior officers in the Central Command announced yesterday that in recent months, some 60 wanted men have given themselves up to the security forces. The officers said that many wanted men are giving themselves up because they feel that the rope around them is being tightened. An Army source said that among those giving themselves up are also people suspected of murder.

The IDF is conducting a manhunt for the most wanted person in Nabulus, a young man suspected of hurling the grenade that wounded three Golani Brigade soldiers in the town's casbah last Saturday. Security sources noted that the youth has been sought for a long time.

Several incidents were reported in the territories yesterday: Two firebombs were thrown at a police vehicle near Manger Square in Bethlehem. One of the firebombs ignited on the roof of the vehicle and the other on the road. There were neither casualties nor damage. Searches in the area turned up another firebomb.

A homemade bomb exploded in the village of Qabatiyah in the Janin area when an IDF patrol passed by in the early morning hours, but there were no casualties or damage. Two firebombs were thrown at an IDF patrol at the entrance to the village of al-'Ayzariyah in the Tulkarm area. They ignited but caused no damage. A curfew was imposed on the area. Stones were thrown in Ramallah, Janin, and Nabulus.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources reported seven casualties in incidents in Jabalyah, al-Shati', al-Nusayrat, and al-Mughazi. The blockade on the Gaza Strip continues for the 10th day running. Palestinian sources reported that the blockade is having a serious economic impact on the inhabitants. [passage omitted]

Settlement Near Jericho Civilianized

TA3105112792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 May 92 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The presettlement of Elisha', northeast of Jericho, is currently being converted into a new civilian settlement, according to Meretz activist Naftali Raz, who toured the settlement last week.

Meretz Knesset Members Dedi Zucker and Hayim Oron point out that Elisha' is one of the six settlement points approved by the former national unity government.

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon approved the civilianization of the presettlement, set up by the association of settlements affiliated with the Herut youth movement. The soldiers living in the settlement were evacuated and put into tents, and the houses are being renovated for the new settlers. Three mobile homes were brought to the site and more will be brought there soon.

Oron and Zucker blame Yitzhaq Shamir's government of squandering public funds for electioneering purposes. The aim in civilianizing the settlements is to convince the extreme right wing to vote Likud, in the view of Oron and Zucker, who are demanding that Labor denounce the establishment of the settlements if they are genuinely aiming to establish a new political path.

Officials Deny Report on Arrow Test Delay

TA0106172992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and Uri Nir]

[Excerpts] The heads of the SDI project in the United States, who are responsible for the development of the Arrow antimissile missile, demanded that the managers of the Israeli project call off the plan to test the missile's interception capability. In the test, the missile was supposed to hit a target missile with characteristics similar to those of the Scud. [passage omitted]

According to today's issue of the U.S. weekly DEFENSE NEWS, the Americans decided to postpone the upcoming test in order to save Israel the embarrassment of another possible failure after the three previous ones. [passage omitted]

According to DEFENSE NEWS, the initial agreement of 1988 states that the first stage of the project will end only after the interception test is carried out, and as long as the first stage is not completed the U.S. defense secretary will hold up signing the documents approving the allocation of an additional $45 million for the project for the 1992-93 budgetary year.

Israeli sources yesterday flatly denied the charge. They said that there had been delays in the transfer of U.S. funds for the development of the Arrow, but that after the signing of the agreement for the project's second stage, $60 million were transferred to Israel for the project's ongoing development. David On, the Israel Aircraft Industries' deputy director general for marketing, reported on the payments to management in early April. [passage omitted]

Egypt Opens al-Azhar University to Israeli Arabs

TA0206113892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Fifteen years after the late President al-Sadat's arrival in Jerusalem, there has been a change in the attitude of the Egyptian authorities toward Israeli Arabs. The Egyptians have now agreed to allow Muslim students to study at al-Azhar University, considered the most important religious university in the Muslim world. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports on the change in the Egyptian position:

The Egyptian authorities' decision to permit Arab students to study at al-Azhar University, the most important university in the world for Islamic studies, came as a surprise. At the end of last week, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni summoned Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils, and told him that not only will these students be exempt from paying tuition fees, but they will also receive a monthly stipend to cover their daily expenses.

Israel suffers from a severe shortage of Muslim clergy, and those who assume this holy task are generally elderly men or people lacking any formal education. After the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt, several Arab students left to study in Cairo but were soon sent back home, ostensibly for failing to meet academic standards. Representatives of the Israeli Arab public continued to pursue the matter, however, and seized every opportunity to ask Egypt to open al-Azhar to Muslim students from Israel.

Arab Local Councils Chairman Ibrahim Nimr Husayn expressed the hope that the current batch of students will fare better than their predecessors and that the Egyptian authorities will allow more Israeli high school graduates to attend other institutions of higher education in Cairo, aside from al-Azhar.

A special committee of Arab religious notables and public officials will convene in the next few days to decide who will receive the scholarships. [passage omitted]

UK Defense Ministry Bans Israeli Contracts

TA0106112692 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] The British Defense Ministry is not allowing Israeli defense industries to tender bids for contracts for the supply of weapons systems to the British Armed Forces. It is believed that this is due to a combination of pressure from UK defense industries and political considerations.

Before the Gulf war, but mainly after it, the British realized that their Air Force lacks several weapons systems for the performance of various tasks. Several Israeli defense industries have attempted to interest the British in their products, but the contacts have never gone beyond preliminary discussions.

Israeli defense industries believe that a combination of political considerations and pressure from British arms manufacturers has almost totally closed the British market to them.

Turkmenistan Puts Off Establishing Diplomatic Ties

TA0206110092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 92 p A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Turkmenistan has put off the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, apparently owing to pressure by the Muslim countries, especially Iran.

In contacts with Israel, Turkmenistan was the only CIS Muslim republic that avoided the establishment of relations with Israel, arguing that "the time is not yet ripe." A month ago, U.S. sources estimated that Turkmenistan would follow in the steps of other Muslim republics and set up relations with Israel, guided by the assumption that this would help it win the sympathy of the West and of the United States in particular. Political sources in Jerusalem are still hoping that Turkmenistan will recant.

With the establishment of relations with Georgia, Turkmenistan and Moldova remain the only CIS republics that do not yet have diplomatic relations with Israel. [passage omitted]

Tourism Accord With Turkey Signed

TA0106111492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Turkey and Israel today signed a tourism agreement. It was signed at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem by Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat and his Turkish counterpart, Abdulkadir Ates. Ates is the first Turkish minister ever to visit Israel, and his visit follows the raising of diplomatic representation between the two countries to ambassadorial level. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Israeli tourism to Turkey dropped very sharply in March, after the murder of the Israeli security officer, Ehud Sadan, in a car bomb attack in Ankara. At that time, the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, Yehezkel Kaufman, urged Israeli tourists not to visit Turkey, and certain other countries in the region. Since Israelis were the biggest national group of tourists visiting Turkey, the loss for the Turkish economy was considerable, and the visit of Minister Abdulkadir Ates, was organized in less than a week, however, he played down the importance of the terrorist incident. In fact, he claimed there are no terrorist attacks in Turkey.

[Ates] Well, I mean that those incidents can happen anywhere around the world, so the one small incident does not make that much of a difference. In recent years,

a lot of Israelis have been guests in Turkey, and the numbers are increasing quite satisfactorily.

[Katzenell] I asked him why had it taken so long for a Turkish minister to visit Israel: Was it because there is now less fear of complications with the Arab world?

[Ates] Well, I mean that Turkey has its own foreign policies, and it does not set those goals and foreign policies for the fear of this nation or that nation. That is not a true statement.

[Katzenell] Turkey recently raised its representation with Israel to ambassadorial level. The reason it presented to militant Muslim opinion at home was that without such a change, it could not take part in the multilateral peace talks. [end recording]

Security for Israeli Tourists Viewed

TA0206063792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Turkish Tourism Minister Abdulkadir Ates arrived in Israel yesterday and signed a tourism cooperation agreement with our foreign minister. The visit was initiated by the Turkish minister and was motivated by Turkish concern over a possible drop in tourism from Israel. Security and tourism elements in Turkey, however, claim that the statement issued by Yig'al Karmon, the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, who called on Israelis to reconsider any visit to Turkey, hurt the tourism industry and has had a detrimental effect on relations between the two countries. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe is currently visiting Turkey, along with a delegation of army affairs correspondents. Here is her report:

Israeli Ambassador to Turkey Uri Gordon noted that this is the first official delegation of Israeli correspondents to visit Turkey and asserted that this is very important. The delegation was invited in the wake of Karmon's statement. In a meeting with the correspondents, the Israeli ambassador to Turkey stressed that he is no expert on terror. It is a fact that the Israeli security officer was murdered here in Turkey, he admitted, but we should not lose our sense of proportion. Turkey is not the only place that poses a risk to tourists. I do not know of any country that is not dangerous to visit, Gordon said. The Turkish authorities, the ambassador added, have promised to improve the situation and to extend any assistance. Within this [illegible] they have implemented several improvements in the field of security.

Ekrem Guvendiren, the outgoing Turkish ambassador to Israel, who completed his assignment last month, said that he had submitted an official protest to the Israeli Government over the statement made by the prime minister's adviser on terrorism. This is not the way to resolve such matters, he said, explaining that the only way to do so is through cooperation and joint efforts, because terrorism is an international problem. Guvendiren said he has no doubt that Israelis will return to Turkey. Turkish security officials invited Yig'al Karmon to come and visit Turkey in order to see for himself that there is no security problem.

During the correspondents' tour of Turkey, it was reported that Israeli security elements recently met with their Turkish counterparts in Ankara in order to discuss ways to improve security for Israeli tourists. Government and security officials expressed the hope that within the next few days, the prime minister's adviser on terrorism will rescind the limitations he imposed on tourism to Turkey.

India Envoy Hopes for Delhi Role in Peace Process

TA0206141992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jun 92 p A7

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] Virendra Gupta, India's new charge d'affaires, said at the opening of the embassy in Israel yesterday that his country hopes to become involved in the peace process in the region and have an impact on it.

India is participating in the five working groups set up as part of the multilateral talks. India's participation in the talks became possible only after it established diplomatic ties with Israel.

Gupta noted that his country supports a comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, including the Palestinian problem, through the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Gupta said he did not want to say anything more on the subject so as not to harm the ongoing talks and negotiations.

The charge d'affaires added that he sees his post as a challenge and is eagerly awaiting it. In answer to a question by HA'ARETZ, Gupta said that Israeli-Indian military cooperation should not be ruled out. He added that India is considering assigning to its embassy here a military attache whose task would be to promote military cooperation.

In reply to a question on whether he can confirm foreign reports that Israel and India are cooperating in the nuclear field—and are holding joint tests—Gupta said that India is not conducting nuclear tests and therefore he cannot talk about alleged cooperation between Israel and India.

The Indian diplomat confirmed that his country has reached nuclear development capability, but that capability has not yet been translated into developing nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

In an interview with HA'ARETZ, David Matna'i, head of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department, said at the embassy's inauguration that "talks and contacts have started on the possibility of renewing diplomatic relations with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. [no ending quotation marks as published] He said that due to the Sri Lankan Government's hostility toward Israel and its false charge that Israel is aiding the Tamil rebels, there is no chance that diplomatic relations between Israel and that country will be established.

El Al-Air India Flight Accord Signed

TA2905175292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Israel and India today signed a civilian air agreement providing for El Al and Air India to operate flights between the two countries. It was the first cooperation agreement signed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states in January. The agreement provides for each airline to fly up to 500 passengers a week.

King Visits 'Arafat; Doctor Notes Improvement

JN0206191992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, this evening. His Majesty King Husayn was reassured about President 'Arafat's health, and he wished him quick recovery.

During a meeting with our correspondent, Dr. 'Adil al-Shuraydah, head of the Jordanian medical team which performed 'Arafat's surgery, said that the health of the Palestinian president was improving.

[Begin al-Shuraydah recording] He is now in the royal lounge at the al-Husayn Medical Center. He was removed from the intensive care unit at 1800 yesterday. This morning he got up as usual, walked around in his room, and had his breakfast. He is in perfect shape, active, and well. The condition of his health is very reassuring. He only needs some rest. In a few days, he will leave the hospital, God willing, in very good health. [end recording]

King Phones Arab Leaders on Ties, 'Arafat Health

JN0206192992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today telephoned His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, His Excellency Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, His Excellency Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and His Excellency Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During the conversation, they exchanged views on Arab relations and issues of mutual interest and reviewed current international developments. His majesty also reassured his brother Arab leaders about the health of His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat following his successful surgery performed at the al-Husayn Medical Center yesterday.

Minister Stresses Commitment to Blockade on Iraq

JN0206200892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt) [passage omitted] Jordanian Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul has stressed that his country is absolutely and completely committed to the UN resolutions pertaining to the international blockade against Iraq. Any allegation of a Jordanian violation of the blockade, he affirmed, is either based on bad intentions or wrong information.

At a news conference today, al-Subul said that a new directorate for political parties and elections has been established to deal with the process of registering and licensing political parties in the country immediately after the issuance of the new parties law. The House of Representatives is discussing this law prior to approval.

Reportage on Conflict Over al-Aqsa Mosque Repairs

Dangers in Circumventing Jordan Noted

JN3005114892 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 May 92 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Commemorating Jerusalem's Usurpation"]

[Text] Celebrating the 25th anniversary of their usurpation of Arab Jerusalem, the Israeli aggressors decided to ban Palestinians from entering the holy city tomorrow, Sunday. This unjust decision is new proof that Israel is not qualified to exercise any authority over the city. Moreover, the decision clearly expresses the racist Israeli mentality, which pays no heed to holy places and does not hesitate to ban Muslims and Christians from visiting them.

Needless to say, the international community refused to recognize the Israeli annexation of Arab Jerusalem 25 years ago, and considers it null and void.

It is worth noting that controlling the al-Aqsa mosque and the blessed Dome of the Rock was and still is a main objective which Israel has been seeking to achieve since it made its unfounded decision to annex Arab Jerusalem. Jordan's adherence to its reponsibilities toward Jerusalem, the third holy mosque and the blessed Dome of the Rock continues to prevent the Israeli aggressors from fulfilling their evil dream.

In light of this, those who try to circumvent the Jordanian role to restore the mosque and maintain the dome should understand the dangers entailed. They should avoid any action that would enable the Israeli aggressors to ultimately become involved in this process through UNESCO or any other party. It should be emphasized, however, that the door is open to all those who have good intentions to participate in the restoration of the mosque and the maintenance of the Dome of the Rock by offering their assistance to the Jordanian committee designated for this purpose. It is worthwhile to caution against using this operation in a way that will highlight the negative aspects that have brought the Arab state of affairs to its present condition.

Israel, which has decided to close Jerusalem to Palestinians tomorrow to celebrate the anniversary of its usurpation, is waiting for the day when it can control the al-Aqsa Mosque and use any excuse to close it, even if the excuse is to supervise its restoration. From this premise, Jordan will continue to abide by its role toward Jerusalem, the third holy mosque, and the blessed Dome of the Rock. Jordan also reiterates its warning to those

with good intentions against allowing the Israeli aggressors from imposing their hegemony on the most precious shrines in the occupied territories.

Official Denies Egyptian Reports

JN3105115992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] An official of the Awqaf department in the holy city of Jerusalem has denied reports by Egyptian newspapers that the chief of the Islamic awqaf in Jerusalem has appealed to the Egyptian Government to work for the restoration of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The official, Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Azim Salhab, said the reports published by the Egyptian press to this effect last week were fabricated and groundless. He asserted that Jordan is the only authority which is entitled to supervise the restoration and repair of the Dome of the Holy Rock and the al-Aqsa mosque.

He added that Jordan's Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry is preparing studies and plans to restore the holy mosque and will furthermore supervise the implementation of these plans.

King's Message Explains Stand on Shrine

JN0306065592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter with agency dispatches]

[Excerpt] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has sent a message to King Hassan II of Morocco explaining the Jordanian position on restoring the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem, officials said Tuesday.

The officials said the message was carried by Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki, who was accompanied to Morocco by Ra'if Najm, deputy director of an Amman-based committee which has supervised the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque since 1952, and Anwar al-Khatib, a former mayor of Jerusalem.

Reuter news agency quoted Amman-based diplomats as saying that King Hassan, head of the al-Quds Committee of the Arab League, was trying to mediate a "dispute" between Jordan and Saudi Arabia over repairs to the holy shrines. But a senior official said Dr. al-Karaki's mission was to explain to King Hassan the reasons why it was important for Jordan to handle the repairs since outside intervention could mean acquiecence to internationalisation of Jerusalem which Arabs oppose. [passage omitted]

Envoy Says Stage Set for Germans' Release

NC0306084092 Paris AFP in English 0809 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 3 (AFP)—The stage is now set for the release of two German hostages held captive by a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon for more than three years, the Iranian ambassador to Germany has disclosed.

"All preparations have been made to set free the two German hostages," Hoseyn Musavian told the pro-government English-language TEHRAN TIMES newspaper.

A visit this week to Beirut and Damascus by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati "may help efforts" to release aid workers Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner, the last two Western hostages held in Lebanon, the paper said, quoting "observers."

Musavian said "sincere efforts" had been made by Iran, the United Nations and "certain resistance groups in Lebanon." He did not elaborate.

Struebig and Kemptner were seized in May, 1989 in southern Lebanon by the Mujahidin for Freedom.

The group has demanded that Germany set free two Lebanese Shiite brothers—Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi—who are serving time on charges of terrorism.

But Musavian insisted there had been "no deal" for such an exchange, adding: "We are entirely against any deal where the lives of human beings are involved."

Further on Visit by Iranian Foreign Minister

Iran Asked To Help Curb Hizballah

NC0206190392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi from his Iranian counterpart Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Velayati said his meeting this evening with President al-Hirawi was frank and cordial and very becoming of the relations existing between the two friendly countries. He added that his talks with the president focused on bilateral relations as well as all the topical regional issues.

REUTER cited Lebanese officials as saying that Lebanon requested Iran to help persuade Hizballah to curb the activity of its fighters in the south to avoid an all-out war with Israel. The agency pointed out that the request was made during the Lebanese officials' meetings today with Velayati, who made no commitment to ask the fundamentalist party [Hizballah] to curb its attacks.

According to these officials, Velayati promised to use Iran's influence to release the two German hostages.

An official who attended the talks cited Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh as saying to Velayati: We hope to establish cooperation with Iran to hinder Israeli hard-liners as much as possible and to help our southern brothers to stand fast. Velayati replied that the Lebanese people should live a dignified life in their land and protect it. He added, however, that Iran will spare no effort to support Lebanon, adding that harmony between the people and the government must be given priority.

AFP cites a source close to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry as saying that Minister Faris Buwayz asked Velayati to use his influence with Hizballah to achieve harmony between the action of the Islamic Resistance and the Lebanese state.

Noninterference in Domestic Issues Cited

NC0306053792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated that national issues like resisting the occupation, determining future policy, and liberating the occupied territories are matters that should be decided by the Lebanese Government and people. He added that Iran does not have the right to speak or decide for Lebanon.

The Iranian foreign minister, currently visiting Beirut, said that Lebanon is an important country, full of energy and strength, with a cultured people.

Dr. Velayati said that Israel does not need any pretext to attack Lebanon, because its policy is based on expansionism. Israel has overt and long-standing designs on certain Lebanese areas, rivers, and water resources, he added. Dr. Velayati said it is obvious that expansionism is an established policy pursued by every Israeli government, and there is no difference between the two major parties in Israel.

Velayati stated that it is not in Iran's interests to become involved in Lebanese domestic issues, nor does Iran wish to become involved. He also stated that his country appreciates Syria defending the resistance in Lebanon. He said that President Hafiz al-Asad is playing an important role in the policy of confronting Israeli extortion.

These are the highlights of the dialogue that was held at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut shortly before midnight.

Velayati Meets Shiite Community Leaders

NC0306062792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Shiite community leaders at the Iranian Embassy yesterday. Also attending were Muhammad Husayn Fadallah; Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah; His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council; Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan; and Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri.

Sources report that the participants discussed the important changes in local and regional issues, the general situation of Muslims, the condition of the Shiites in Lebanon, and the critical situation in the south and western al-Biqa' caused by Zionist threats and aggressions which endanger Lebanon.

The conferees also agreed on the need to confront the Zionist conspiracies by coordinating among the various Lebanese factions.

Dr. Velayati stressed Iran's support for Lebanon and the cooperation between Tehran and the Lebanese Government and people to resolve this country's problems.

Meets Party Leaders

NC0306094792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] At the Iranian Embassy, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party; Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri; George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general; Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization; a delegation from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Higher Council, headed by Dawud Baz; Deputy Zahir al-Khatib; and the Islamic Group in Sidon.

Velayati met earlier with a Hizballah delegation headed by Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and a number of party leaders, along with Islamic Amal Organization leader Husayn al-Musawi.

Further on Reaction to Israeli Offensive in South

Islamic Resistance Warns SLA

NC0206195392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] An Islamic source in Beirut told REUTER that for Iran the resistance is not an issue for negotiations or a mere tactic. Iran, the source added, is determined to support the resistance. The source described the current phase as crucial.

REUTER cited officials and analysts as saying that the confrontation between Israel and Hizballah has entered a crucial phase ahead of the general elections in Israel on 23 June. Washington and moderate Arab countries, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, are striving to restrain all the concerned parties in order to avert a possible flare up.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance issued a warning to South Lebanese Army personnel, saying that it is giving them a last chance to return to their people and defect from that army.

The warning was transmitted via Voice of Islam radio [Voice of the Oppressed], which is run by the fundamentalists in Ba'labakk. The radio stated: Return to your people or your fate will be sealed; you will be killed or captured. The resistance men are coming.

Government Security Arrangements Cited

NC0306092792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib said that the government will implement security arrangements in Beirut and various other regions without consulting anyone. He said the government will do what it believes is appropriate.

Al-Sulh: No New Army Deployments

NC0306104592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Following a series of ministerial meetings today, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh said there will not be any new Army deployments in the south.

PFLP, Hizballah Officials Meet

NC0306065892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] A high-level delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], headed by Salah Salah, visited Hizballah's Political Bureau. They were met by Mr. 'Ammar al- Musawi, deputy head of the Hizballah Political Bureau, and Political Bureau member Shaykh Sabri Tulays.

Both Muslim parties reviewed the situation in Lebanon and Palestine and the challenges they face, especially with the aggressive Zionist escalation in southern Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

They stressed the need for cooperation to bolster the intifadah and enhance coordination between it and the resistance in Lebanon.

Additional Reportage on Israeli Attacks in South

SLA Position Reportedly Attacked

NC0306074792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance claims that its fighters attacked a South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in al-Qantarah with rockets and machine guns. The ensuing battle lasted more than half an hour.

Israelis Shell al-Qantarah Area

NC0306091592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli artillery pounded areas near al-Qantarah in retaliation for an early morning attack on an Agent position there.

A communique issued by the Lebanese National Resistance Front stated that the attackers returned safely to base. There were no reports about the results of the attack because of the security cordon around the position.

Israeli warplanes flew over al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, Sidon, and nearby camps this morning.

Israeli Planes Draw Fire in South

NC0306090492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes are currently flying over the south and drawing antiaircraft fire.

Israeli artillery today shelled the towns of Qabrikha and Tulin and raked the Wadi al-Hujayr area with large-caliber weapons.

Al-Asad Views Peace Process, U.S. Ties, Lebanon

JN0206155692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 2 Jun (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad met with a BBC radio and television team comprised of Hugh Prycer-Jones and Qasim Ja'far. He answered questions asked by both members of the team.

The following is the text of the questions asked and the president's answers:

[Question] Mr. President, only a few weeks separate us from the Israeli elections, while the peace process began months ago. You always noted the limitations of this process and the obstacles it faces. Why did Syria decide to participate in the peace process?
[al-Asad] As you know, since the early seventies, we have been emphasizing the peace process, especially in the wake of the 1973 October war. We agreed on Resolution 338, which encompasses Resolution 242 and calls for peace and then for convening a peace conference. A peace conference was held once in Geneva near the end of 1973. Its sessions were then stopped. This is what exists on the one hand. On the other hand, new signs have emerged that indicate the international community's recent enthusiasm to stress the importance of implementing UN resolutions and of adhering to international legitimacy. Discussions began and invitations were issued on this basis by some of the concerned countries or by those with the greatest influence within the international community and the Security Council. At that time, those countries were the United States and the Soviet Union. We realized that all of this is in line with what we want, with our acceptance of Security Council Resolution 338 and with our desire to attain a genuine, just, and lasting peace—something we have stressed over the past years. It is also in line with the desire of the international community and its enthusiasm—which has come to the surface—to implement the UN resolutions, which is what prompted us to participate in the peace process.

[Question] How do you feel now that six months have gone by since the peace process began? The process is still continuing, and the Arab side has accepted UN resolutions that are in effect a recognition of Israel. Over these months, have you become more hopeful or more concerned?
[al-Asad] We have always believed that the Israeli rulers do not want peace. They want territory, occupation, and expansion—consecutive expansion every now and then. Nevertheless, in light of the new developments and talk about the importance of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, we found that there might be an opportunity to achieve a just peace by implementing these resolutions. The past six months, however, have not given any indication that the Israeli Government seeks or wants to achieve peace in the region. During these months, it emphasized—and continues to emphasize daily and publicly through its various officials—the need to keep the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the need for the Arabs to sign what they in Israel call a peace treaty while Israel itself will continue to keep the occupied Arab territories. Nevertheless, we believe that there is at least some benefit to be gained from what has occurred during the meetings between the Arab and Israeli negotiating teams. The benefit is that the world, whether through its public opinion as a whole or the conviction of many state officials, must now have a better realization of who is for peace and who is against peace. I am quite sure that any person in the world who follows up common causes and international affairs, who respects impartiality and objectivity, and who really believes in peace and its elements—as well as in justice, which should prevail everywhere, especially in relations among the world's nations—must now have realized that Israel does not want peace but wants to swallow the territory of others. In any case, we are not talking about metaphysical things. The Israeli prime minister himself reiterates a geat deal that he cannot and will not cede—and he calls this concession—that he cannot abandon the occupied Arab territories as long as he lives.

[Question] What, then, is required, Mr. President, to make the peace process successful, given that the process is not moving along at the necessary pace?
[al-Asad] The international community, and particularly the international organization—the Security Council—must execute its commitments in accordance with its charter and must implement its resolutions. This is especially true given that this Council is composed of influential states that confirm that today's world is one of international legitimacy. The Security Council and its influential states can implement the resolutions of international legitimacy—the Security Council resolutions, which is the truly guaranteed road to peace.

[Question] Does this mean, Mr. President, that you might call on the United Nations to supervise the peace process instead of the United States, which has been supervising it?
[al-Asad] There is no contradiction in this matter. In our previous talks just prior to the peace process, as well as in discussions that occurred some time before and during it, we continued—until now—to speak about the role of the United Nations. They are also talking about a UN role. Only Israel objects to this role. The United States and Russia, the two concerned countries, are two permanent members of the Security Council. What I am saying does not conflict with what is now occurring regarding supervising the peace process. In all cases, however, these two states—as far as we understand it—are operating under an umbrella and within the framework of terms of reference represented by Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242. The United States and Russia, backed by the Security Council, can implement the resolutions of legitimacy that I mentioned.

[Question] If Israel continues its intransigence under all circumstances, do you expect an operation similar to that that occurred in the Gulf against Iraq to get Israel to accept the UN conditions?

[al-Asad] I do not want to recommend anything specific to the Security Council or try to stick to specific measures. We adhere to the rule that the international body, which is obligated to maintain peace according to its charter and the many general international resolutions, is dutybound to search for an effective, certain, and guaranteed means to implement these resolutions. When they adhere to this objective, they themselves will find the ways and means to implement their resolutions. Anyway, we do not want different and contradictory criteria to apply in dealing with various countries. Therefore, we do not want to see the Security Council resolutions applied in a certain place and then kept in drawers elsewhere.

[Question] For you to obtain a UN-sponsored process, or at least a UN diplomatic initiative, you must depend heavily on your relationship with "the United States" and the West, which you supported during the Gulf war. What do you have to say about this relationship? And how strong is it?
[al-Asad] As a matter of fact, it was the principles governing inter-Arab ties that determined Syria's position regarding the Gulf war. Under no circumstances could we endorse the occupation of an Arab country by another Arab country regardless of the amicable ties that we might have with the aggressor or the country aggressed against. That is why we spelled out our position against the occupation of Kuwait during the first hours of the event.

With respect to ties with the West in general—and I guess you are referring to the United States in particular—I would like to say that the ties between us and the United States are better than they have been in the past. Contacts have been continuous between us during recent years. These contacts are most often marked by cordiality. Both of us are talking about a desirable future improvement in these ties, as well as the wish to promote these ties in the interest of both our countries and as much as possible.

[Question] Despite the fact that there have been clear indications of an improvement in ties with the West during the past two years, there are some insinuations that Syria is sponsoring terrorism. There are whispers about the Lockerbie affair and drugs. How do you feel about these insinuations?
[al-Asad] This issue exclusively concerns the United States and not the West in general. It is the United States that talks of terrorism and that issues lists of the countries sponsoring it. Of course, Syria has said, and still says, that it has never at any time supported terrorism. We believe that the charges of terrorism, which are made repeatedly in the United States, are prompted by domestic circumstances in the United States and not by facts regarding Syria or other world states. If you were to go to the United States and demand to know the grounds for these charges and to be shown proof that corroborates these charges by those who are leveling them there, and if you were to be apprised of their argument in this regard, then you would reach the conclusion that Syria opposes terrorism. You would not find in their possession anything that could convince you of the validity of the charges that are made from time to time.

The charges that Syria is implicated in terrorist acts have nothing to do with Syria's activities. Rather, these charges are connected with Syria's position toward Israel. Hence, the terrorism charge leveled against Syria is an Israeli rather than a U.S. fabrication.

[Question] Allow us to settle this matter once and for all in this very hall and say that Syria has no connection with the blowing up of the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie.

[al-Asad] We discussed this matter in length with U.S. officials. We insisted that they provide us with any evidence, proof, or anything at all indicating Syrian involvement in this affair. They did not do so, because they do not have what we are requesting. I do not know if they are still accusing us, or if they fell silent only temporarily. Therefore, we have begun to doubt every accusation that they direct against any party related to these issues. Any accusation needs evidence; it needs proof. But I can say that even this accusation is related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the position toward Israel.

I wish to point out that in the past we have greatly helped people from Western states who have fallen into certain difficulties. It may not be correct to describe all of these difficulties as acts of terror, because each incident had its own circumstances and assessment by those who perpetrated it. In all cases, and regardless of what these acts are called, we helped Westerners from various countries; we helped to secure their release. Our efforts enabled them to return to their homes and families and to live in freedom. We did not expect gratitude from anyone; we did this out of our belief that we are dutybound to help with any matter that has humanitarian dimensions when we can, and this we did. I wish to say that at the top of those whom we helped were the Americans, probably because the number of Americans involved in these problems was the largest.

[Question] As you said, resolving the hostage crisis has indeed helped to improve Syria's image, which was tainted by terrorism allegations as in the case with the al-Hindawi and Lockerbie affairs. I wish to ask about Britain in particular. How have your relations with it improved in the past few months?

[al-Asad] Each country has dealt with the issue, causing a dispute between us at some point in the past according to its own views at that time. We believe that that issue is now behind us, and we now consider our ties with Britain to be cordial and good. We exchange cables and letters and hold contacts every now and then. We both express the hope that we will also be able to march ahead toward better ties of cooperation. We do not see any obstacles preventing an improvement in our relations, and we in Syria are very concerned about this. The fog that separated us in the past no longer exists.

[Question] Mr. President, can we say that British Prime Minister John Major is someone you can deal with, and is he eager to deal with you?
[al-Asad] As you know, we began to resolve problems at the end of the previous British Government's term and the beginning of that of the current government. There is ongoing progress. Yes, in my opinion, we can cooperate and we can do a great deal of service to benefit our two countries.
[Question] Western countries have an inclination, as well as a pattern, that emerges in their relations with other countries. For instance, Western states expect other countries to do certain things, such as implement pluralism or, rather, to adopt the Western pattern in terms of its positions and political institutions. I know that many changes have occurred in Syria and that you released thousands of prisoners upon your reelection. But how much change can the West expect to occur internally in Syria?
[al-Asad] We must not forget that in the first place each group of people determines its affairs according to its own interests, wishes, and ambitions without anyone being able to dictate to it what it should do, which is a fundamental to which we adhere to in Syria. I believe that all the world's peoples adhere to this basis or want to adhere to it. We want to adhere to it, and we do adhere to it, which, of course, does not contradict the interactions that occurred among the world's various peoples. Each group of people will adopt what it thinks is beneficial to, or is in harmony with, the primary factors that determine the rules and formulas it pursues. Democracy is the objective of all peoples. Democracy ultimately means freedom. Hence, it is the objective of every person. All people work to find formulas through which they can exercise their freedom. They discover formulas that can be developed later on or that can be amended every now and then.

There remains, however, the defining of lines for these formulas that differ with the economic level, the cultural level, the traditional values, the spiritual values, the political situation, the political awareness, and other major characteristics of each group of people. Anyone who oversteps these defining lines, or who seeks to abandon them, will be moving away from what is suitable for them, which is what exists on the one hand. In light of this, we act and discuss things with our people on the widest level possible. We have participants in major decisions, people who are in our opinion difficult figures. They would not be available in many countries. I mean, here, the big figures who contribute toward such decisions.

Regarding patterns, there is no one pattern in the West similar to the one you are talking about. There are different systems in the West, because the matter is related, to a great extent, to what I have already mentioned. If we examine the history of these Western states in general, we will find that there are republican systems, monarchic systems, parliamentary systems, and presidential systems. There is a presidential system in the United States that is, of course, a presidential-republican system. In Germany, for example, there is a parliamentary system. In Britain, there is a combined parliamentary and monarchic system, and in France, there is a presidential-parliamentary system. Therefore, we rarely see two states that have the same system at the same time. There is no one pattern that can be called a democratic pattern or a Western democratic pattern. Just as no singular side in the West affects another side and cannot impose its patterns upon it, no one should try to impose his pattern on the nations of the world.

In brief, I would like to say that cooperation is necessary and useful for all nations, and it does not conflict with democracy, especially with what we call international democracy. It does not conflict with it; rather, it falls within its framework and benefits everyone. No one should force any side—or should be forced—to accept the process of imposition. History shows that every force that has tried to impose its pattern has retreated. History is a great teacher.

[Question] A major ally of yours has disappeared. The Soviet Union vanished, leaving the Middle East in a state of imbalance regarding the weapons of mass destruction. It is no secret that Israel has nuclear weapons. I know that there are plans to monitor strategic weapons in this region, although we do not know much about it. Do you have any proposals in this regard?
[al-Asad] Syria and the Arabs defended their rights in the past before their ally, the Soviet Union, came into existence. The Arab-Israeli conflict began before the Soviet Union became an ally of the Arabs.; moreover, it began at a time when Israel was receiving considerable support from some Eastern states. Since then, relations between Syria and the Arabs, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union, on the other, have developed. Now this has changed, as you have said. The Soviet Union no longer exists, but nations adapt to their circumstances. And they can always find and create ways to defend themselves.

About supervising arms and weapons of mass destruction, we support such supervision if it is fair and equitable. When we say supervising arms in the Middle East, this means there should be restrictions leading to similar results for both Arabs and Israelis. This is not what those who propose this supervision mean. None of them proposed that Israel's arms production or arms imports be supervised.

You hear a hue and cry raised sometimes about what they believe is going to come to an Arab country. They talk loudly, and the loudest is the Israeli voice, which apparently is meant to guide the others. They speak about supervising weapons. We would like to have limitations on weapons, or a supervision of weapons; but, as I have said, this should be applied to everyone, leading to similar results. Here I say that supervising weapons does not mean supervising the weapons that a certain country buys; rather, the supervision must apply to the weapons a country manufactures. When a Western nation gives Israel factories—these factories are the same

as those in the West and are daily producing everything from pistols to long-range missiles, planes, tanks, and other weapons—then we must supervise what is being manufactured. We must define what the Israeli weapons factories should produce both qualitatively and quantitatively, as well as what Israel imports. The others also will be subjected to the same treatment. We support such supervision, because it will not allow the gaps that already exist between the Arabs and the Israelis. The states that call for the supervision of weapons but do not adhere to this themselves are working to mislead all of human society.

In any case, in the past we discussed all these issues with the countries that had expressed interest in the matter. We were told that what we said would be considered, meaning that this is a correct and basic issue. We cannot see any evidence that this has been the case.

At any rate, at a time when there is talk of arms control—which is, in practice, aimed against arms shipments to Syria—it is worth noting that it is Syria that makes immense effort when it imports some tanks.

We are now sitting in this place, which is in the heart of Damascus. Less than 150 km from us, there are Israeli nuclear arms and missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. These missiles are capable of carrying warheads of various kinds; they are all made in Israel, thanks to the supplies and equipment it has obtained from some Western countries. Some countries show concern when a single tank is shipped to Syria, yet fail to do so when the issue concerns the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that are already in the Israeli arms arsenal and that are ready for use.

We believe that the international community must hasten to ban the production of nuclear weapons in Israel as well as destroy the nuclear weapons there, which would show and confirm this community's concern for peace and for the prevention of any calamitous human catastrophes. Otherwise, what does arms control mean?

[Question] Excuse me. We would like to have this point made perfectly clear. Am I to understand from what you said that you proposed to some Western countries, including the United States, even and balanced arms reductions but that your proposals were not met with a favorable response?
[al-Asad] Yes. This was the focus of our talks with the United States when this topic—namely, arms control—was raised. The argument we presented was clear; it was made sufficiently clear.

[Question] Allow me to finish our interview with Lebanon. I know that Lebanon has always been important to you. You done a great deal to end the civil war there and put an end to Lebanon's crisis. Your troops are stationed in that country, and they were effective in ending the civil war. We are now hearing once again news about battles, clashes, and Israeli shelling in southern Lebanon. Israel insists that your troops in Lebanon must be used to control Hizballah in the south. Israel is also talking about the possibility of war. Will you do what Israel is asking or will you risk another war?
[al-Asad] We are not the ones taking risks. Israel is. Israel is the one threatening war. It attacks Lebanon and strikes at civilians, children, the elderly, and women. It uses the modern weapons that it received—essentially, from the United States. It refuses to implement the UN resolutions, particularly the one concerning Lebanon; namely, Resolution 425, which demands that Israel leave the Lebanese territory it has occupied. It has prevented the UN troops from reaching the international border between Lebanon and Israel. It also prevented the Lebanese Army from reaching the border, a task that was part of the Lebanese Government's plan to make the Lebanese Army work for establishing security along the international border between Lebanon and Israel in cooperation with the UN troops. In the end, Israel insists on maintaining its occupation of part of the Lebanese territory.

People of any country whose land is occupied have a strong motivation to fight against the occupier. The Lebanese are like any other people in the world. Resistance against the Israeli occupation was not born today, or this month, or this year. It began a long time ago and continued for many years.

No one can imagine that Syria, which is an enemy to Israel just as Israel is an enemy to Syria, will protect the Israeli borders or Israel's security. No one can imagine that Syria will kill the Lebanese because they are defending their country.

The statements to which you refer—in which Israel, as you suggest, asks Syria to do such and such—demonstrate the hostile attitude of the current Israeli Government. You are aware that Syria seeks to achieve peace at this stage. Syria was the party that opened the doors to peace and the ongoing peace efforts after Israel had closed them. Therefore, Syria, which participates in the peace efforts, does not plan war at the same time. Israel is the party that will be taking risks if war breaks out. Of course, if war is launched against it, Syria will defend itself. No one, under any circumstances, can employ Syria's efforts as a protector of Israel, which occupies the territories of Lebanon and Syria as well as Palestinian territories.

If Israel really is concerned about security and peace, then the path is clear; namely, to implement the UN resolutions and the comprehensive and just peace that will be attained by implementing these resolutions. This is the path to security and stability, as well as the path that will enable every party to regain its rights.

[Question] Mr. President, do you consider war to be a possibility at this particular time?
[al-Asad] In every conflict between two or more parties, each party can start a war. But no party can confidently predict the end of this war. Therefore, I do not think war is inevitable. But, I still cannot say that Israel cannot

start a war, because, it is known, previous wars have always been started principally by Israel.

Anyhow, by resorting to this escalation Israel is not seeking to respond to an operation conducted by a group of individuals or citizens from Lebanon; such operations have been carried out scores of times in past years. We in Syria, however, believe that it seeks to achieve two things. First, to obstruct the peace process. It has become clear that the current Israeli Government does not want peace. It may think that it has the opportunity, or that it can conceal this fact by talking about Hizballah and by crying "terrorism." It may think that this might justify war in the region. Naturally, war will not leave anything called a peace process or peace efforts. The second objective is an electioneering one. The Israeli Government believes that escalating the military operations will help it gain more votes in the upcoming Israeli elections.

Egyptian President Arrives on Working Visit

JN0306095392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1100 today for a working visit to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those receiving him at Damascus International Airport. Also meeting the Egyptian president at the plane's ramp were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish; and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Mustafa Mursi. [passage omitted]

Both presidents held a meeting as soon as they arrived in the People's Palace. On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'; Information Minister Muhammad Salman; and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish. On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Egyptian Ambassador in Cairo Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi.

Afghanistan

Rival Mojahedin Groups Continue Fighting

BK0206161292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1604 GMT 2 June 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpts] Kabul, June 2 (AFP)—Tough Uzbek militiamen took control of Kabul's streets Tuesday night after fierce fighting between rival mojahedin groups in the Afghan capital left several dead and scores injured.

An attack by unknown gunmen on a powerful resistance leader, Jalalodin Haqani, was believed to have sparked the bloody clashes that left as many as 20 people dead and 83 injured in five city districts.

Haqani, the interim justice minister, said he was attacked in the district of Kote Sang-i while en route to mediate between skirmishing fighters of the Iranian-backed Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat and the pro-Saudi Ittihad-e Eslami.

Earlier reports had said several of his bodyguards were seriously wounded in an attack by the Shiites on the palace of Chehelsatoon in the south of the city, but officials said the palace was stormed after the abortive assassination bid.

"Our tanks have gone to Chehelsatoon," said a government source some eight hours after the bloody fighting took place at 9:30 a.m. (0500 GMT) in Kote Sang-i and soon spread to Kabul University and three other city districts.

An AFP reporter caught in the fighting saw hundreds of people fleeing with their children, many falling victim to random machine gun fire, as government offices emptied. [passage omitted]

Wahdat and Ittihad fighters fought at close quarters near a government silo and in a house-to-house battle behind the university's Aliabad area, witnesses and reporters said.

A British journalist had a narrow escape when machine gun and pistol fire raked his car approaching the fighting zone where tanks, cannons and rockets were used by the two traditionally hostile factions.

"Ten Wahdat and three Ittihad people have died," said Uzbek militia commander Major General Umar Agah, as militia fighters took control of the streets after the bloody clashes.

"We have stopped the fighting. Our men have taken up position everywhere," said Umar Agah.

At the International Red Cross Hospital earlier Tuesday, its four expatriate and two Afghan surgeons worked non-stop as the wounded kept pouring in with injuries ranging from minor to severe.

Refugees returning from their Pakistani camps balked at entering Kabul, where machine gun and heavy cannon fire echoed all day.

Communication officials from the city telephone and telex centers left their offices at noon as the fighting spread.

There was no public comment on the internecine fighting from interim President Sebgatollah Mojaddedi's office, but some official sources said they had heard negotiations were underway for a ceasefire.

The Hezb-e-Wahdat is a coalition of eight groups that operated out of Iran in Sunni-dominated Afghanistan to try and topple ousted president Najibollah's regime backed by the former Soviet Union.

The Ittihad-e Eslami is a Pakistan-based mojahedin faction drawing funds and moral support from Riyadh.

Haqani, who also heads a 31-member neutral mojahedin commander's council, last month had suggested the withdrawal of the Wahdat fighters along with Uzbek forces from Kabul to pave the way for a permanent ceasefire.

Lull in Fighting 2 Jun; Further Battles Planned

BK0306004492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1906 GMT 2 Jun 92

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpt] Kabul, June 2 (AFP)—Intense fighting between forces loyal to the Afghan government and rival mojahedin ended after almost eight hours of bloody clashes in the Aghan capital Tuesday had left more than 20 people killed.

Uzbek militiamen told AFP they had taken control of almost all vital intersections and districts where skirmishes between tanks and infantry fighters had continued for the better part of the day.

"We have stopped the fighting. We have killed some of the attackers and we plan to get the rest tonight," a senior commander in charge of anti-fighting operations in Kabul said.

At least 20 people, mostly mojahedin warriors, died and up to 83 others were wounded in fighting between pro-Iranian Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat and the pro-Saudi Ittihad-e Eslami guerrillas in five city districts.

The Wahdat forces are aligned with the defence ministry of the interim administration of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

"We have pushed the main Ittihad forces out of the city," said the Uzbek commander, a member of the forces of General 'Abdorrashid Dostum, a militia leader who also backs the new government in Afghanistan.

Uzbek fighters, known for their fearless assaults, were firing at Ittihad posts with mortar and tank artillery late Tuesday night, but officials said the fighting was outside of the city's northeast. [passage omitted]

'Massive' Blast Reported Near Foreign Ministry

BK0306081692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 3 (AFP)—A massive explosion outside the foreign ministry in central Kabul left at least one dead and nine injured Wednesday morning, an official spokesman said as fighting between mojahedin groups continued in the city.

Witnesses said it was not clear what caused the explosion on the tree lined avenue, adding that mojahedin and civilians were among the casualties in the blast at 9:45 a.m. (0525 GMT).

Fighting between Pashtun Ittihad mojahedin and the Shia Hezb-e Wahdat, which erupted in many parts of the city early Tuesday, continued Wednesday and was concentrated in a suburb around the Kabul zoo.

Witnesses said the Wahdat appeared to be firing mortars and heavy machine guns at Ittihad positions in the area, but details were sketchy.

At least 20 died and more than 80 were injured in Tuesday's factional fighting, according to hospital reports.

Meanwhile reporters said a huge column of tanks under the command of Uzbek militiamen loyal to the interim government of Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and Jamiat-e Eslami fighters of Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud were sighted speeding towards the southwest of the city where Ittihad commander Sher Alam is positioned.

The tanks were emblazoned with green flags, and explosions could be heard near the Iranian embassy, a few blocks from the foreign ministry, where Ittihad were reported to have taken over an intersection.

The Wahdat are a Shia Muslim grouping supported by Iran, while the Ittihad are made up mostly of ethnic Pashtoons, who are mainly Sunnis.

Sketchy reports said Ittihad troopers were searching city buses near the embassy intersection for members of Kabul's Shia community known as Hazaras.

Other unconfirmed reports from residents of three inner and southwestern city areas, Shari Naw, Kote Sanghi and around the main wheat silo, said scores of people of both communities had been abducted during the fighting Tuesday.

There was no official confirmation of the abduction reports.

Planning Minister Receives Russian Ambassador

LD0206205792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam Said Mohammad Ali Jawed, acting minister of planning, met today in his office with esteemed Yevgeniy Ostrovenko, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Russian Federation in Kabul. At the meeting, the ambassador of the Russian Federation first congratulated the mojahedin on the success of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan and then both sides held talks on subjects of mutual interest and the participation of the Russian Federation in the reconstruction of the country and construction of the socio-economic projects. The Russian Federation ambassador gave an assurance about the preparedness of his country to assist the construction of various socio-economic projects.

India

Minister Says Support for Palestinians Undiminished

BK0206130892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] India says that its decision to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel does not change the country's commitment to the Palestinian cause. Addressing a news conference in Muscat today at the end of his two-day visit to Oman, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, said New Delhi is totally opposed to Israel's policy of settling Jews in the occupied territories.

Mr. Faliero hoped that the proposed meeting between Indian and Pakistani prime ministers at Rio De Janeiro will result in the resumption of dialogue between the two countries. He said in the changed international scenario it is time for reconciliation and not confrontation.

Commentary Reviews 'Freedom Struggle' in Sindh

BK0206111692 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Commentary by Deepak Sagar, former press registrar]

[Text] With the observance of first anniversary of the founding of the Jeaye Sindh Progressive Party on March the 21st, the freedom struggle in Sindh province of Pakistan has heated up. The party has launched the second phase of its struggle for achieving the rights of Sindh and the Sindh people all over the province from April the 28th, with ultimate objective of fighting for complete independence for the province, whose people have been suffering all kinds of discrimination and brutalities at the hands of the Punjabi dominated center. The treatment given to the veteran Sindhi leader, G.M. Syed, is a clear pointer of the intentions and policies of the Pakistani Government, which has charged Syed for sedition and for advocating the creation of independent Sindh desh [homeland]. The struggle of Jeay Sindh

Mahaz [Front] has been supported by several other organizations which were already struggling against injustice. These organizations include the Sindh Democratic Group, Jamhoori Tehriq [Democratic Movement], Sindh National Front, and the Sindh Adabi Sangat [Writers' Society]. The struggle of these organizations have resulted in further depression of the Sindhis and deployment of army in Sindh.

Islamabad's decision to move over 30,000 army personnel at the crackdown on the civilians with additional powers have been condemned by opposition leaders and Sindhi nationalists. [sentence as heard] Under the special operation called Operation Blue Fox, over 30,000 men of army and paramilitary units have been inducted into Sindh for suppressing the activities of Sindhis opposing the policies of the Islamabad government. Photographs of Sindhi student leaders and other Sindhi nationalist elements have been distributed to all airports and railway stations in Sindh in order to enable the security forces to arrest them if they try to escape. Over 3,000 persons have been arrested so far. In the National Assembly, leaders of all opposition parties have strongly condemned the crackdown of the army in Sindh and the summary trial of the conviction of innocent people. Syed Iftikhar Gilani, a member belonging to the opposition People's Democratic Alliance [PDA], said that events in Sindh were casting tremors of an impending earthquake that could shake up everything. He strongly criticized the involvement of the army and asked the government to explain to the people under what law of the land the army had been asked to start operations in Sindh. Jam Saifullah, another member of the National Assembly belonging to the PDA, said that after depriving the people of Sindh of their basic rights, the Islamabad government is now forcibly chasing them under army rule. Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, has accused the elctronic media controlled by the Islamabad government of totally blacking out the real state of affairs in Sindh, although thousands of persons have been arrested and several have been killed in Sindh. In a statement, retired Air Marshal Asghan Khan, former chief of the Tehriq-i-Istiqlal, warned that the use of army in Sindh would remind the people of similar action taken by late General Ziaul Haq in 1983 to crush the movement for the restoration of democracy in Sindh and that it could prove disastrous for the country. The Jeaye Sindh progressive Party has organized a number of meetings all over Sindh to criticize the suppression of the Sindhis.

Islamabad seems to be in no mood to look into the complaints of the Sindhi people. The rulers went to the extent of sacrificing a major portion of Pakistan when s democratic mandate of East Pakistan was not acceptable to them. Even afterwards, Sindh mandate was rejected by the rulers for more than once. The mandate given by Sindi people in 1970 was rejected by the corridors of power when Z.A. Bhutto, elected not only by the people of Sindh, but by the whole country, was kicked out of power ruthlessly with the might of the gun. Again in 1989, the mandate of Sindhi people was rejected when Benazir Bhutto, who had also not got only the mandate of Sindh, but the whole country, was dismissed in a humiliating manner.

Iran

Khomeyni Addresses Armed Forces, Hails Role

LD0206163992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] This morning, on the fifth day of mourning marking the third anniversary of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, tens of thousands of commanders and officials from the Ministry of Defense and Logistical Support of the Armed Forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the resistance forces of the Basij [unit] of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Law Enforcement Forces of the Islamic Republic, and various strata of people from all over the country, gathered to take part in mourning rituals at the pure shrine of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified.

At this gathering, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni made some remarks in which he praised the valuable role of the Armed Forces in the path of safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He pointed out that, today, the sacred objectives of the imam of the ummah are continuing as firmly as before under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and that the latter is defending the honor of Islam and Muslims. He emphasized the need to continuously combat those elements that undermine social order and security. He stressed: The enemy, which is using all its devious ploys to destabilize the Islamic Republic of Iran, is today trying to use its mercenary lackeys inside the country to disrupt security and social stability. It is the duty of the Law Enforcement Forces and judicial officials as well as that of all alert, ever-present-on-the-scene people, to be present, with all their strength, in the political and social arenas and to see to it that elements of disruption are punished in accordance with the law.

Reportage on 30 May Demonstrations in Mashhad

At Least 1 Killed During Protests

NC0206143892 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 2 (AFP)—At least one person was fatally wounded during a demonstration Saturday in the eastern Iranian city of Mashhad, the mayor has acknowledged, but residents have said the toll could be higher.

Mayor Saberi Fard, quoted Tuesday by the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, accused "hypocrites"—a term used here to refer to the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq

Organization—of being responsible for "premeditated" acts of violence. The paper said around 100 buildings were damaged by demonstrators, "who set fire to several bookstores and even burned copies of the Koran." On Saturday, Tehran Radio reported that "a group of bandits and outlaws wanted to construct houses without the municipality's authorization" had attacked the town hall in protest.

Saberi-Fahd told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI that one person, a student, had been fatally wounded in the disturbance. But residents contacted by telephone told AFP that the toll of victims could be higher. Official media reports put the number of arrests at more than 300.

The governor of Khorasan Province, also cited by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, said an investigation had begun into "negligence and carelessness" on the part of the security forces during the incidents. The daily SALAM, which is close to hardliners, said Tuesday that economic problems were usually at the core of such occurrences.

The paper argued that demonstrations that have taken place in Mashhad, as well as in the cities of Arak and Shiraz, cannot be ignored. It criticized the near-complete silence by the official press on the incidents, despite prominent front-page coverage in Iranian newspapers of recent civil unrest in the U.S. city of Los Angeles.

Violent demonstrations broke out in Arak 10 days ago and in April in the central Iranian city of Shiraz but most media ignored them.

Unrest Proof of 'Disenchantment'

NC0306104792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: On 30 May, thousands of disenchanted Mashhad residents took to the streets and attacked the clerical regime's officials and shouted slogans against the Islamic Republic. The demonstrations and unrest began when regime officials in Mashhad attempted to destroy the homes of poor and destitute people on the pretext that the regime had not approved building them. The disenchanted people, however, could not sit back idly and watch their homes be destroyed so they resisted regime officials, attacked them, and set several vehicles and government buildings on fire.

Reports on the clashes between the regime's hirelings and the people whose homes were being destroyed spread immediately throughout the city. Many people rushed to the scene to help their colleagues and extensive anti-regime demonstrations began.

According to news agency reports, several people were killed and wounded during the Mashhad demonstrations and unrest. Due to the extent of the people's dissatisfaction and the extensive reporting on the incident, the clerical regime was unable to remain silent about it. Of course, the Islamic Republic—as always—described the people's protests as a counterrevolutionary plot and the dissatisfied and disenchanted people as hooligans and ruffians in order to justify itself.

Khorasan Governor-General 'Ali Jannati said that about 300 of the demonstrators have been arrested and will be tried soon. [Head of the Judiciary] Yazdi said that several special judges have been assigned to investigate the incident and that the perpetrators should be severely punished. This gentleman also said that these types of actions are unacceptable, even if the demands are just.

Of course, one day after the demonstrations, in which thousands took part, the Islamic Republic let loose a number of its agents in Mashhad streets to demonstrate and demand that the dissatisfied people be crushed in a bid to prove that the people agree with the regime and that those who had risen against the regime were merely a bunch of hooligans.

Before the Mashhad incident, Arak was the scene of protests against the Islamic Republic. On 20 May, the people of Arak took to the streets and confronted the regime's forces. The people set a number of banks and government offices on fire and expressed their hatred of the anti-popular clerical regime. The Arak unrest began when, in an attempt to prevent someone from constructing a building, the regime's officials attempted to pull over a truck loaded with bricks. To avoid capture, the truck driver drove faster and eventually ran over a child.

Demonstrations in large cities such as Arak and Mashhad, involving several thousand people, and the bloody clashes between the people and the regime's hirelings and suppressive forces are a new form of the explosion of the public dissatisfied of our country's people. During the past few months demonstrations, strikes, and protests have been intensifying. On 7 February, thousands of oil workers in Abadan's oil industries protested low wages. On the same day, workers in the oil refineries in Tehran, Esfahan, and Shiraz also went on strike to demand higher wages. On 3 March, students of Khajeh Nasireddin Tusi demonstrated in Tehran's Mirdamad Avenue and were attacked by the regime's police and suppressive forces. The students were protesting the merger of this university with Modarres University and Dr. Seyyed Esfahani, their new dean. The arrest and injuries of a number of students did not deter students in Tehran and other Iranian cities. In fact, teachers and students of several other universities went on strike in support of the arrested and wounded students.

During the last few days of the past [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1992], a number of protest movements were obvious. On Tuesday 11 March, the shops in southern Tehran all closed. The people took to the streets to protest the Islamic Republic and chanted anti-regime slogans. In another protest move, teachers refused to go to schools, demanding wage increases.

KEYHAN newspaper employees went on a five-hour strike, reportedly to protest the inadequate chief editor.

Actually, the strike was an expression of dissatisfaction against the regime. The civil servants strike in late winter terrified the regime so much that the clerical Majles had to reform a law on a coordinated wage scale to the benefit of the workers.

These are only some of the expressions of dissatisfaction by our country's people against the clerical regime. The quality and quantity of the protest movement is undoubtedly much more extensive than reports indicate. Due to the censorship and suppression that rule over the Iranian masses, the extent of the dissatisfaction is downplayed.

Regardless of this fact, everyone can honestly say that the ending of the war with Iraq and the coming to power of Rafsanjani's government—and the formation of a Majles favored by this government—have not been able to make the people optimistic about the standard of living. This is true even though the regime considers this new Majles as the condition for improving Iran's economic and social situation. The government's promises and slogans on public welfare and the economic situation are not fooling the people. The massacre and suppression of dissatisfied people and the regime's deployment of armed forces to stop the people's protest movements have not prevented our compatriots from confrontation and resistance. The fact that the regime has been unable to bring the situation in Arak and Mashhad under control is a sign of the further intensification of our people's dissatisfaction.

In addition, those who are most dissatisfied and disenchanted are from the toiling and destitute strata of Iran. They are people who the regime describes as the oppressed, the very same people the regime says it defends. This shows that despite its sham support for the poor and destitute, not only has the clerical regime not improved their situation, it has increased their problems.

The fact that Arak and Mashhad have become centers for the people's protests is noteworthy for two reasons: First, because the residents of these two cities are mainly religious fanatics and the Islamic Republic has been able to exploit their religious feelings in order to continue its rule. It seems now that this regime is losing influence with its supporters more and more each day. The second reason it is noteworthy is because incidents in industrial and large towns can create huge problems for the regime and can threaten its existence more than ever before.

We believe it is the duty of the oppressed masses to support the struggle and confrontation being waged by the dissatisfied people in Iranian cities. We also believe that expressing our unity with the residents of Mashhad and Arak and spreading the protest movements nationwide can guarantee the struggle's success and force the Islamic Republic to retreat.

Iraq Using Chemicals, Planning Attack in Marshes

LD0206125292 Tehran IRNA in English 1222 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., June 2, IRNA—Iraq has banned any trafficking in the southern marshlands of the country in an attempt to make military preparations for fresh assaults against its opponents sheltered in southern iraq, an Iraqi opponent source told IRNA here Monday.

A number of civilians residing in the southern marshlands, not paying attention to the instructions, have been martyred by the Iraqi Army, the source added.

The Iraqi opponents accuse the regime of employing chemical weapons against the defenceless civilians and the opposition strongholds.

Another report said that a number of senior Iraqi airforce officers who had refused to bomb the southern regions, have been arrested by the security authorities.

Editorial Analyzes New Foreign Investment Policy

PM0206104892 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 20 May 92 p 8

[Unattributed editorial: "Several Questions From the Supreme Council for Investments, to Which We Impatiently Seek Replies"]

[Text] The public relations office at the Ministry of Finance and Economy issued a brief statement to the media. It said: "The Supreme Council for Investments on 5 May 1992 announced the acceptance of foreign investments. It will now make a decision on the request from investors to grant them unlimited participation." Although the statement was short, there is a world of events and incidents within the lines of this news item. It comes at a time when the Ministry of Finance and Economy has asked the Council of Guardians to analyze Article 81 of the Constitution, which bans foreign investments in Iran. This is being done to reassure foreign investors. It also indicates that a firm decision has been made to lift the ban on foreign investment in our country.

It is a fact that developing countries face financial limitations when they seek to implement their programs of economic and industrial growth. Another fact is that developed and industrial countries face inflation because of a decrease in their own rate of profits and seek to export their funds. Many developing countries put these two undisputed facts together and consider the opportunities, thinking that importing foreign investment is one of the best methods they can use to expand their own economies. But their current status indicates that their logic was not based on firm foundations. Hundreds and thousands of books and scientific articles have been written on this subject, which means that we do not need to go into further detail. There are many discussions that we could have on the few successful examples of this scheme and the reasons for their success in the proper

use of such investments. We hope to be able to outline some of these in future debates.

For us the first question that arises is this: Why is it that such items of news—which are so important for the future of the country, the people, and the revolution—are announced in just a few lines from a ministry's public relations? Why was it first broadcast by a Western news agency? If the aim is to discover the level of sensitivity and attention among the local press and people, you should know that those responsible in the press have this issue fully in mind and will not ignore it.

As was mentioned before, the aim here is not to engage in a scientific discussion of the results of the lifting of restrictions on foreign investments in Iran. We will only put a few questions to the Supreme Council for Investment, whose members doubtless include experts and economists.

1. What necessities in the past caused this law limiting foreign investments to be introduced? What necessities now are prompting them to seek to lift this limitation?

2. What laws and regulations govern foreign investment without limitations? Do we have a capable management team in this country with the ability to control these investments in the country?

3. Keeping in mind that the "transfer of technology" is always one of the goals mentioned when it comes to foreign investment, could you please give details of how this technology is to be transfered, or, in other words, how this technology can be attracted to Iran, giving details of what steps must be taken.

4. What kinds of laws and ideas will we have to support local investment?

5. What are the proper conditions for foreign investors to get their investments working in Iran? What do you forecast will be the limit of such investment in Iran?

We anxiously and impatiently await answers from the Supreme Council for Investment. We will continue this scientific discussion in order to clarify the truth—just as the president in one of his Friday sermons encouraged the press to do—as soon as we receive replies to these questions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Malaysia's Badawi

LD3105123392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Malaysian Foreign Minister Mr Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today. In the meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani underlined the need to intensify Iranian-Malaysian cooperation in the fields of mutual interest, notably in the political and economic fields.

Pointing to the Islamic countries' great potential for establishing cooperation and further understanding, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the heartfelt wish of the Islamic nations to establish friendship and cooperation with the other Islamic nations. He said: This is a right which the officials of these countries must help realize and remove the difficulties in the way of cooperation among Muslim and Third World countries.

Concluding his remarks, the president expressed the hope for further promotion of Iranian-Malaysian cooperation in future.

In the meeting which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the Malaysian foreign minister conveyed the warm greetings of the Malaysian leaders, and remarked on the highly memorable visit of our country's president to Malaysia at the time of his appointment as Majles speaker. He said: At present relations between Iran and Malaysia are on a good level and I believe that these relations will expand further in the next few years.

Continuing his remarks, the Malaysian foreign minister briefed the president on his visit to the Central Asian countries and ways of expanding cooperation with those countries, as well as his highly useful talks with the head of the two countries' joint cooperation commission and other officials of our country. He added: Malaysia's policy is based on promoting relations and cooperation with the countries of the south, and I am confident of the existence of good opportunities and potential in Iran which will be useful both in terms of enhancing bilateral ties, and deepening ties with the countries of the south.

Multilateral Cooperation Discussed

LD3105210192 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—The variety and abundance of decoration and construction slabs in Iran is one of the approrpiate grounds for mutual cooperation between Iran and Malaysia, Mines and Metal Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi said here today.

Mahlujchi in a meeting with visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi also called on the Malaysian companies to invest in wood industries in the southern Qeshm free zone in view of the wood abundance in Malaysia.

Badawi in reply expressed his country's keenness for the expansion of multilateral cooperation between Iran and Malaysia within the joint economic commission meet to be held in Kuala Lumpur in the near future.

Nepal

Election Violence Kills 9; NC Party Leads

BK0206143392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Kathmandu, June 2 (AFP)—The ruling Nepali Congress Party (NC) has captured another town in local

elections in Nepal while the communists took another three as counting continued and the death toll rose to nine.

The NC have won the mayor's and deputy mayor's posts in 10 towns including the capital, while the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) have boosted their score to five out of 36 municipalities where elections were held, the Election Commission told reporters Tuesday.

The New Workers' and Peasants' Party have won both posts and all city council seats except one in Bhaktapur, the commission said. The one seat went to the NC.

So far results from about 40 percent of village councils had been received by the commission with the NC taking more than 65 percent of seats, it said.

Also Tuesday a Home Ministry spokesman said two people were killed and six injured in two separate incidents Monday in two towns in the northeast of the country bordering Tibet.

In Sankhuwa Sabha an NC activist was killed and three others were injured in a factional clash, while in Rajbiraj one person was shot dead and three others wounded after they tried to steal ballot boxes, the spokesman said.

On Monday a Home Ministry official said at least four people were killed and two seriously injured after police shootings and factional clashes during the second phase of elections for local councils, mayors and deputy mayors in 3,996 villages and 36 municipalities.

Three people died in the first phase.

A senior official from the Election Commission said earlier that despite the deaths the two phases of polling on May 28 and May 31 "were...completed successfully and peacefully in general terms."

Repolling has been ordered in 15 of Nepal's 75 districts, the official said.

NC Wins Communist 'Bastion'

BK0306091992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, June 3 (AFP)—The ruling Nepali Congress Party (NC) has captured a communist bastion in a major swing against leftwing parties in local council elections, officials said Wednesday.

The NC won the mayor and deputy mayor's post in the Patan just outside Kathmandu as well as taking 12 of the 22 local council seats up for grabs in the two phase elections, ending more than 40 years of communist dominance.

The United People's Front (UPF), one of the major parties of the Nepal Communist Party (Unity Center), failed to win a single seat in what they had long considered their bastion, while the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) managed only seven seats, the Election Commission officials said.

The remaining seats went to independent candidates.

The result in Patan was affected by voting in Kathmandu where the NC also won a resounding victory and is an important boost for the ruling party which came to power in May 1991, political analysts said.

The voting demonstrated a swing away from the communists who were responsible for calling two violent general strikes in April and May to protest high inflation which left seven people dead in police shootings, they said.

The strikes were followed by a torchlight demonstration in Kathmandu and Patan in which marchers damaged property.

With some 45 percent of votes already counted the NC continues to hold a strong lead capturing more than 65 percent of seats up for grabs in the elections for local councils, mayors and deputy mayors in 3,996 villages and 36 municipalities. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Sindh Chief Justifies Army Deployment in Province

BK0306024692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah has said the Army has been called under Article 147 of the Constitution to assist the civil administration and police to restore law and order in the province. In an interview, he said the Army will work with the concurrence and knowledge of the civil administration in the province. Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah stressed that the problem in Sindh is due to its socioeconomic and political nature. However, robbers, terrorists, and anti-social elements have no political or social leaning and they should be wiped out. He assured that the operation will not make anybody the target of political vendetta.

Protest Lodged Over Shooting by Indian Troops

BK0306013292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a protest with a UN military observers group in India and Pakistan over shooting incidents committed by Indian troops at the line of control in Azad Kashmir. According to a press release of the Interservices Public Relations, these incidents occurred in Punch, Matiyal, and (Bagsar) areas between 26 May and 2 June. The press release says five civilians, who were busy in agricultural work, fetching water, and other routine jobs at the time of shooting, were seriously injured.

Restrictions on Movement Imposed in Dadu District

BK0306014492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] District magistrate of Dadu has imposed restrictions on the movement of people under Article 144 of the Constitution in the areas under the jurisdiction of Dadu District adjoining Balochistan Province from 1900 in the evening to 0600 in the morning.

Former Afghan Officers Seek Asylum

BK0206121392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Jun 92 p 12

[Bureau Report]

[Text] Peshawar, June 1—With the change of government in Kabul, Pakistan was facing an influx of a new type of refugees from Afghanistan. This time, these unwelcome guests are ex-Afghan ministers, Khad [Afghan secret police] officers, military officers and many other office-bearers of the Khalq faction of the former ruling party PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] in Kabul.

These "refugees" find no place in Pakistan, except jails and places of their friends upon their arrival. It was reliably learnt that political authorities arrested three ex-ministers at Pak-Afghan border at Towr Kham on Monday while they were entering Pakistan.

Besides them, 25 other ex-military officers were also arrested there. However, the political rehsildar [revenue collector] Landi Kotal while talking to THE MUSLIM Monday night admitted the arrest of only six such officers.

The persons whose arrests were confirmed by political authorities included Capt [Captain] Abdusattar son of Mer Afghan, Yar Mohammad son of Khan, Bahader son of Rustam, all belonging to Laghman province. Ghulam son of Ghulam Saddiq, Attaullah son of Miskeen both from Jalalabad, and Asadullah son of Mohammad Usman, resident of Kabul.

All of them had been reportedly arrested on a secret tip of Pakistan's secret service agencies, IB [Intelligence Bureau] and ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] and were the officers of Afghan secret agency Khad. They had also their affiliations with the "Khalq" faction of PDPA.

It was also learnt that an ex-Afghan minister, known as the "Stalin of Afghanistan", Sulaman Laiq was already in Peshawar besides a number of other former ministers, who had secretly taken asylum with their personal friends. Sulaman Laiq, a famous Pashto poet is the father-in-law of an ANP [Awami National Party] leader.

Meanwhile, with the new government in Afghanistan and after the Hekmatyar-Mas'ud ceasefire accord, the number of the these new Afghan refugees had increased and about two thousand of them had already crossed the Towr Kham border, which was the main and easy entrance to Afghanistan from Pakistan out of 361 such routes on the Durand Line from Chitral to Quetta.

However, political authorities had confirmed the arrival of about 500 people. Majority of these refugees were reported to be "Khalquis", who had escaped Afghanistan. Fearing persecution at the hands of new gov [government].

Sri Lanka

Over 100 Tamil Tigers Killed in North

BK0106112692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Over 100 Tamil Tigers, including 10 soldiers and two officers, were killed during the weekend when commandos engaged in Operation Whirlwind made further advances in the northern jungle territory in the face of stiff Tiger resistance. Officials sources said that Air Force pilots manning a fleet of helicopters lent invaluable air protection for the advancing ground troops and have also destroyed terrorist vehicles and jungle bunkers. In an allied naval operation, codenamed Operation Sea Lions, three Tiger bases in midsea were completely destroyed and several coastal positions in which the Tigers were entrenched have been wiped out. Commanders manning naval, sea, and ground operations told the national news agency LANKAPUVATH that at a Christ Church Cemetery yard, maintained by the Tamil Tigers in dense jungle, there were signs of nearly 60 fresh graves that had been hurriedly dug up. So we know the location and identified it; we do not desecrate the dead. But the frantic activity in the graveyard is ample testimony to the losses suffered by the Tigers during the last 48 hours, said an Air Force spokesman. Meanwhile, the three major offensives—Operation Whirlwind, Operation Seventh Force, and Operation Sea Lions—will continue unabated in the coming weeks, confirmed the spokesman.

Troops Take Rebel Base; Many Die in Violence

BK0206155792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1431 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Colombo, June 2 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil guerrillas gunned down 15 Muslim bus passengers in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday as security forces overran a key rebel base killing 50 militants and losing seven soldiers, officials said.

Six gunmen armed with automatic assault rifles boarded the bus at the coastal village of Komari and sprayed passengers with gunfire killing 15 isntantly and seriously wounding three more, local officials said.

Military officials here said they believed rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were responsible for the massacre although no one had yet claimed the attack.

The LTTE is opposed to the minority Muslims and the Sinhalese of the majority community living in northern and eastern parts of the island claimed as a traditional homeland of the Tamil minority.

The attack on the Muslim civilians came as heavily armed troops supported by artillery and helicopter gunships consolidated their position in the northeastern village of Alampil captured from the LTTE after an overnight battle.

Security forces lost seven soldiers and claimed killing at least 50 LTTE fighters in the battle.

The latest casualties raised military losses to 83 since security forces launched simultaneous attacks against LTTE positions in the island's embattled northeast Thursday to expand the area under the troops' control.

Official figures showed that an estimated 300 suspected LTTE men had died during the same period in intense aerial and artillery strikes. Tamil sources here have said 12 civilians were among those killed in air attacks.

Defence officials said two minor operations had been launched in the northern town of Vavuniya Tuesday but details were not immediately available.

There were no fresh reports of fighting outside the main military airbase in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the heartland of the LTTE, where troops pushed their bunkers a few hundred meters (yards) into rebel-held territory.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state for Sri Lanka's two million Tamil minority concentrated in the island's northeast. Thousands have been killed in the 20-year-old independence campaign.